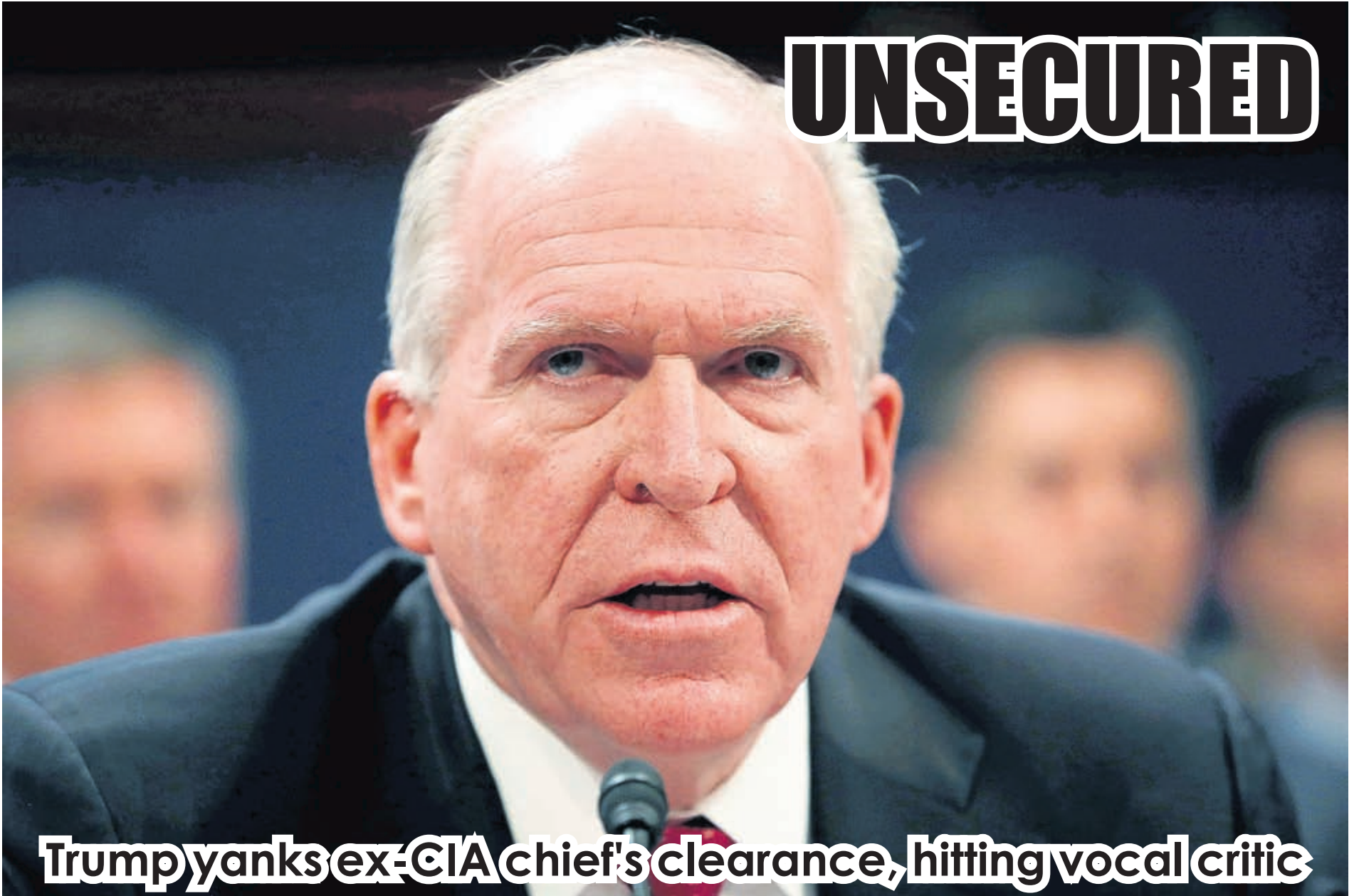


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UNSECURED



Trump yanks ex-CIA chief's clearance, hitting vocal critic

In this May 23, 2017, file photo, former CIA Director John Brennan testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, before the House Intelligence Committee Russia Investigation Task Force.

Associated Press

By JILL COLVIN and ZEKE MILLER

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump abruptly revoked the se-

curity clearance of ex-CIA Director John Brennan on Wednesday, an unprecedented act of retribution against a vocally critical

former top U.S. official. Trump also threatened to yank the clearances of eight former officials and a current one, mostly top

intelligence and law enforcement officials from the Obama and previous administrations. Trump denounced Bren-

nan's criticism and spoke anxiously of "the risks posed by his erratic conduct and behavior."

Continued on Page 3

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Senate study faults government care of migrant children

By ALAN FRAM

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government has made only incremental improvements to its troubled efforts to care for thousands of migrant children detained entering the U.S. without their parents, perpetuating a problem the Trump administration has aggravated with its "zero tolerance" immigration crackdown, a bipartisan Senate report said Wednesday.

The 52-page study said no federal agency takes responsibility for making sure children aren't abused or used in human trafficking once the government places them with sponsors, who sometimes aren't their parents or close relatives. Immigration judges are ordering the deportation of growing proportions of these children partly because the government does little to ensure they get to court, and officials



In this July 26, 2018, file photo, families with young children protest the separation of immigrant families with a sit-in at the Hart Senate Office Building on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

haven't provided sufficient mental health services for some of them, the report said.

"Major deficiencies persist that leave the children at

significant risk for trafficking and abuse and undermine our immigration system," said the report by the Senate Homeland Security Committee's investigations

subcommittee. It said a recent attempt at coordination between the departments of Health and Human Services and Homeland Security "does little to offer hope that federal agencies are working to improve" children's safety, and it called the situation "untenable."

The report comes as attention has focused on another set of migrant children: more than 2,000 who were separated from their parents as part of President Donald Trump's policy of aggressively prosecuting immigrants entering the country without authorization.

Though most of those children have been reunited with their parents or others, the costs involved "have stretched thin" HHS' "already limited resources," the report said. The authors wrote that when they asked that agency to detail its efforts to check on children placed with sponsors, "HHS told the subcommittee that it can either work to reunite families or update data — but not both."

More than 200,000 unaccompanied children have entered the U.S. without legal status over the past six years, and most problems started under President Barack Obama, the report said.

"This is an incredibly difficult

issue and it's not a partisan one," said Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, the subcommittee chairman.

The panel's top Democrat, Delaware Sen. Tom Carper, took a more partisan tone, saying, "This administration continues to make an already challenging reality for migrant children even more difficult and more dangerous."

When unaccompanied children are apprehended, Homeland Security must quickly transfer them to Health and Human Services, which then tries placing them with parents, relatives or others until a court hearing — a wait that typically takes 480 days. If a sponsor can't be found, children are held in facilities often run by government contractors.

Once they're with sponsors, HHS has trouble tracking them. In figures originally released in April, when officials tried calling 7,635 children late last year who'd been placed sponsors, they were uncertain where about 1 in 5 were. Twenty-eight others had run away. Since 2015, HHS has been checking on children 30 days after going to sponsors. The report called that "a small step in the right direction" but added, "It is concerning that HHS apparently takes no action to address the alarming situations it discovers when it makes those calls."

It also said that in about 1 in 7 instances, it couldn't reach the sponsors, which "should be a significant red flag," the report said.

The report said HHS usually doesn't notify state and local authorities when it puts children with sponsors in their communities, letting some fall through the cracks when it comes to attending school. When HHS by law turns over children to DHS when they reach 18, it often doesn't provide required recommendations for appropriate care.

HHS has stopped providing legal services to children newly placed with sponsors because it believes it has only "shaky" authority to do so. □

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CLEARANCE

Continued from Front

The president described his own action as fulfilling his "constitutional responsibility to protect the nation's classified information."

However, Democratic congressmen said it smacked of an "enemies list" among fellow Americans and the behavior of leaders in "dictatorships, not democracies." Brennan tweeted: "My principles are worth far more than clearances. I will not relent."

Trump's action, critics and nonpartisan experts said, marked an unprecedented politicization of the federal government's security clearance process. It also was a clear escalation in Trump's battle with members of the U.S. intelligence community he inherited and has attempted to re-orient since he took office. And it came in the middle of the president's latest controversy — accusations of racism by former assistant Omarosa Manigault Newman and his bitter reaction to them. Trump's statement, distributed to reporters, was dated July 26, 2018, suggesting it could have been held and then released when needed to change a damaging subject.

Trump, in a statement read by his press secretary and distributed by the White House, accused Brennan of having "leveraged his status as a former high-ranking official with access to highly sensitive information to make a series of unfounded and outrageous allegations, wild outbursts on the internet and television about this administration."

"Mr. Brennan's lying and recent conduct characterized by increasingly frenzied commentary is wholly inconsistent with access to the nations' most closely held secrets," the statement said.

Brennan has indeed been deeply critical of Trump's conduct, calling his performance at a press conference last month with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Finland "nothing short of treasonous."

He said of Trump's order on Wednesday, "This action is part of a broader effort by

Mr. Trump to suppress freedom of speech & punish critics.

It should gravely worry all Americans, including intelligence professionals, about the cost of speaking out." Brennan said he learned of Trump's action only when the White House announced it.

Former intelligence officials are wondering how far Trump will go, according to a former senior intelligence official who spoke on condition of anonymity to share private conversations he's had with people who have worked in the field.

They note that Trump has moved from threatening to revoke security clearances of former intelligence officials who have not been involved in the Russia investigation to former officials who did work on the probe. The official said they worry that Trump will go further and revoke security clearances of individuals who are currently working directly on the Russia investigation.

Trump's statement said the Brennan issue raises larger questions about the practice of allowing former officials to maintain their security clearances, and said that others officials' were under review.

They include former FBI Director James Comey; James Clapper, the former director of national intelligence; former CIA Director Michael Hayden; former national security adviser Susan Rice and Andrew McCabe, who served as Trump's deputy FBI director until he was fired in March. Also on the list: fired FBI agent Peter Strzok, former FBI lawyer Lisa Page and senior Justice Department official Bruce Ohr, whom the president has tweeted about recently.

At least two of the former officials, Comey and McCabe, do not currently have security clearances, and none of the eight receive intelligence briefings. Trump's concern apparently is that their former status gives special weight to their statements, both to Americans and foreign foes.

Ohr is the only current government employee on the list.

Former CIA directors and



These file photos, top row from left are former CIA Director Michael Hayden, former FBI Director James Comey, former acting FBI director Andrew McCabe and former national security adviser Susan Rice. Bottom row from left are former FBI Deputy Assistant Director Peter Strzok, former Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates and former National Intelligence Director James Clapper.

Associated Press

other top national security officials are typically allowed to keep their clearances, at least for some period, so they can be in a position to advise their successors and to hold certain jobs.

The office of the Director of National Intelligence Dan

Coats declined to comment on Trump's decision to revoke Brennan's security clearance. The CIA referred questions to the White House.

Clapper, reacting on CNN, said he didn't plan to stop speaking out when asked about the Trump adminis-

tration.

"If they're saying that the only way I can speak is to be in an adulation mode of this president.

I'm sorry, I don't think I can sign up to that," Clapper said, adding: "This is at least in my memory unprecedented." □

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APNewsBreak: U.S., Mexico to announce new plans on cartels

By **MICHAEL TARM**
Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Top U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration officials will unveil new plans to combat Mexican drug cartels Wednesday in Chicago alongside members of the Mexican government, military and

federal police, DEA officials told The Associated Press. The announcement at a joint news conference will be a public display of bilateral cooperation amid ongoing tensions over President Donald Trump's trade and immigration policies, including over his vow to

build a wall along the nearly 2,000-mile (3,218-kilometer) U.S.-Mexican border. The new plans include putting greater emphasis on attacking cartels' financial infrastructure. Plans also call for a new enforcement group based in Chicago that will concentrate on in-

ternational investigations of cartels. Matthew G. Donahue, director for the DEA's North and Central American Region, told the AP on Tuesday that the U.S. wants to rely more on changes in the Mexican legal system in recent years designed to

Omar Hamid García Harfuch; and Brigadier General Chief of Staff at Mexico's Ministry of Defense, Oswaldo Iván Galicia Galicia. Donahue said the targeting of top cartel brass will remain a core component of bids to disrupt the powerful syndicates. The

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Drug Enforcement Administration regional director Matthew Donahue speaks during an interview, Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2018, in downtown Chicago.

Associated Press

make evidence gathering and prosecutions more efficient.

"The new game plan is ... pick up the speed and arrest more people, faster," Donahue said.

"That's what we're really trying to push — the cooperation that we currently have with Mexico to be a little more efficient, a little bit more aggressive."

He said the U.S. also intends to do more to help stem the flow of guns into Mexico that contributes to deadly violence in the country. Donahue said around 31,000 people were killed in Mexico last year, a record for a single year.

According to the DEA, the Mexican officials attending include Mexico's acting attorney general, Alberto Elías Beltrán; Mexico's chief director for the Criminal Investigations Agency,

biggest trophy in this long-standing kingpin strategy was Sinaloa Cartel leader Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, extradited to New York in 2017 to face U.S. trafficking charges.

Sinaloa has dominated the drug supply to many U.S. cities, though the takedown of Guzman lessened its influence. Among up-and-coming cartels cutting into Sinaloa drug-market share is the Jalisco New Generation Cartel, or CJNG, led by Nemesio Oseguera Cervantes, also known as "El Mencho."

Last year, a DEA drug-threat report called CJNG "one of the most powerful and fastest growing in Mexico and the United States." It said the cartel's primary product is methamphetamine, with main U.S. distribution hubs in Los Angeles, New York, and Atlanta. □



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Colorado baker who refused to make cake for gays sues again

By JAMES ANDERSON

DENVER (AP) — A Colorado baker who insisted his religious beliefs justified his refusal to make a wedding cake for a gay couple — an argument partly supported by the U.S. Supreme Court — has sued the state again for opposing his refusal to bake a cake celebrating a gender transition, his attorneys said Wednesday. Lawyers for Masterpiece Cakeshop owner Jack Phillips allege in a federal lawsuit filed Tuesday that Colorado is on a "crusade to crush" Phillips because of his religious beliefs. They are challenging a June 28 finding by Colorado's Civil Rights Division that Phillips discriminated against a Denver-area attorney who requested a birthday cake in 2017 to celebrate the attorney's gender transition from male

to female.

Phillips refused the request, citing his belief that "the status of being male or female ... is given by God, is biologically determined, is not determined by perceptions or feelings, and cannot be chosen or changed," the lawsuit said.

The rights division found that Autumn Scardina, who requested the cake, was discriminated against based on her transgender status. It ordered both parties to seek a mediated resolution.

Reached by telephone Wednesday, Scardina declined to comment, citing the pending litigation.

Phillips' suit names rights division director Aubrey Elenis, state Attorney General Cynthia Coffman and Gov. John Hickenlooper as defendants. It seeks a reversal of the commission ruling

and at least \$100,000 in punitive damages from Elenis. Rebecca Laurie, a spokeswoman for the commission, declined comment Wednesday, citing pending litigation. Also declining comment where Jacque Montgomery, spokeswoman for Hickenlooper, the Democratic governor, and Annie Skinner, spokeswoman for Coffman, a Republican.

Attorneys for Alliance Defending Freedom, representing Phillips, contend the latest action contravenes the Supreme Court's ruling in the Masterpiece wedding cake case. The high court ruled June 4 that some commission members displayed anti-religion bias in their deliberations and that anti-discrimination laws "must be applied in a manner that is neutral toward religion."



In this June 4, 2018 file photo, baker Jack Phillips, owner of Masterpiece Cakeshop, manages his shop after a U.S. Supreme Court issued a limited ruling in his favor after he refused to make a wedding cake for a same-sex couple.

Associated Press

But the court stayed out of the thornier issue of whether people can avoid providing services to same-sex weddings because of religious beliefs.

The original case started when Phillips refused to bake a wedding cake for Charlie Craig and Dave Mullins in 2012. Phillips operates a small, family-run bakery located in a strip mall in the southwest Denver suburb of Lakewood. He told the commission in

the latest case that he can make no more than two to five custom cakes per week, depending on time constraints and demand for other goods.

The new lawsuit alleges that Colorado violated Phillips' First Amendment right to practice his faith and 14th Amendment right to equal protection, citing commission rulings upholding other bakers' refusal to make cakes exhibiting hate messages. □

Notes of support pour in for 2 who started California blaze

REDDING, Calif. (AP) — A couple whose flattened trailer tire reportedly started a massive fire in Northern California has received more than 100 cards and letters with supportive messages telling them not to feel guilty.

The outpouring of support for an 81-year-old man and his wife started after Rachel Pilli made a Facebook post offering to forward compassionate messages to the couple, the Record Searchlight in Red-

ding, California, reported Wednesday.

Pilli doesn't know the couple, but said a firefighter who knows them told her the woman blames herself and cries day and night. She decided to send them a card with a supportive message and then posted about the couple on social media.

"I couldn't imagine the grief," she said. "If I were the one responsible for the accident I couldn't imagine the shame and the tor-

ture I'd feel."

The blaze that has destroyed nearly 1,100 homes and killed eight people started on July 23 with a spark from a vehicle driving on a flat tire, fire officials said. It was 67 percent contained as of Wednesday.

Pilli said she has received more than 100 cards and letters and they keep coming. People have also sent bouquets of flowers and gifts for the couple.

Pilli, a doctor and mother



In this Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2018 photo, Rachel Pilli poses at the Care Net Pregnancy Center in Redding, Calif.

Associated Press

of three, and a friend are reading the letters before they send them to the couple to make sure all are encouraging. Thus far, they have been.

She said she hopes the couple "feel the love and forgive themselves."

"I think the fire has caused us to look into each other's eyes and discover the human kindness in us," Pilli said. "People have been so generous. It's a beautiful story of hope and community." □

'Manafort and his lies' at heart of case, prosecution argues

By **CHAD DAY, MATTHEW BARAKAT and STEPHEN BRAUN**

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — Paul Manafort lied to keep himself flush with cash and later to maintain his luxurious lifestyle when his income dropped off, prosecutors told jurors Wednesday in closing arguments at the former Trump campaign chairman's financial fraud trial. Jurors will begin deliberations Thursday. In his defense, Manafort's attorneys told jurors to question the entirety of the prosecution's case as they sought to tarnish the credibility of Manafort's longtime protege — and government witness — Rick Gates. The conflicting strategies played out over several hours of argument that capped nearly three weeks of testimony in the first courtroom test for special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation. The verdict, now in the hands of 12 jurors, will provide a measure of the special counsel's ability to make charges stick. And while the case doesn't

involve allegations of Russian election interference or possible coordination by the Trump campaign, it has been closely watched

of attacks on Twitter and through his lawyers. In the closing arguments, prosecutor Greg Andres said the government's case

trying to blunt the effect of testimony from some of the people who handled Manafort's finances, including his bookkeeper, who

statement of his income to bank officers reviewing a loan application. He highlighted another in which Manafort acknowledged his control of one of more than 30 holding companies in Cyprus that prosecutors say he used to funnel more than \$60 million he earned advising politicians in Ukraine.

Prosecutors say Manafort falsely declared some of that money to be loans rather than income to keep from paying taxes on it. "Ladies and gentlemen, a loan is not income, and income is not a loan. You do not need to be a tax expert to understand this," Andres said.

The government says Manafort hid at least \$16 million in income from the IRS between 2010 and 2014. Then, after his money in Ukraine dried up, they allege, he defrauded banks by lying about his income on loan applications and concealing other financial information, such as mortgages.

Manafort chose not to testify or call any witnesses in his defense. His lawyers have tried to blame their client's financial mistakes on Gates, calling him a liar and philanderer.

Gates, who struck a plea deal with prosecutors, told jurors he helped conceal millions of dollars in foreign income and submitted fake mortgage and tax documents. He was also forced to admit embezzling hundreds of thousands of dollars from Manafort and conducting an extramarital affair.

Andres said the government isn't asking jurors to like Gates or take everything he said at "face value." He said the testimony of other witnesses and the hundreds of documents are enough to convict Manafort on tax evasion and bank fraud charges.

"Does the fact that Mr. Gates had an affair 10 years ago make Mr. Manafort any less guilty?" Andres asked, noting that Manafort didn't choose a "Boy Scout" to aid a criminal scheme. □



Westling, and Kevin Downing, leave federal court after closing arguments and jury instructions ended in the trial of the former Donald Trump campaign chairman, in Alexandria, Va., Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2018.

Associated Press

by President Donald Trump as he seeks to publicly undermine Mueller's probe through a barrage

boils down to "Mr. Manafort and his lies."

"When you follow the trail of Mr. Manafort's money, it is littered with lies," Andres said as he made his final argument that the jury should find Manafort guilty of 18 felony counts.

Attorneys for Manafort, who is accused of tax evasion and bank fraud, spoke next, arguing against his guilt by saying he left the particulars of his finances to other people, including his former deputy Rick Gates. After the closing arguments were finished, U.S. District Judge T. S. Ellis III told jurors they will begin deliberating Thursday morning.

Neither Manafort nor Gates has been charged in connection with his Trump campaign work. But Mueller's legal team says it discovered Manafort hiding millions of dollars in income as a result of the ongoing investigation.

Defense attorney Richard Westling told jurors that the fact that Manafort employed a team of accountants, bookkeepers and tax preparers shows he wasn't trying to hide anything. The lawyer appeared to be

said he concealed offshore bank accounts and lied to them.

Westling said the evidence against Manafort has been cherry-picked by Mueller's team and doesn't show jurors the full picture.

"None of the banks involved reported Manafort's activities as suspicious," he said.

Westling questioned whether prosecutors had shown criminal intent by the former Trump campaign chairman, and pointed to documents and emails that the defense lawyer said may well show numerical errors or sloppy bookkeeping but no overt fraud.

During the prosecution's arguments, jurors took notes as Manafort primarily directed his gaze at a computer screen where documents were shown. The screen showed emails written by Manafort that contained some of the most damning evidence that he was aware of the fraud and not simply a victim of underlings who managed his financial affairs.

Andres highlighted one email in which he said Manafort sent an inflated

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U.S. officials: Iraqi refugee was part of terror group

By **DON THOMPSON**

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) —

A 45-year-old Iraqi refugee was arrested Wednesday in Northern California on a warrant alleging that he killed an Iraqi policeman while serving with the Islamic State organization. Omar Abdulsattar Ameen and other members of ISIS killed the officer after the town of Rawah, Iraq, fell to the Islamic State in June 2014, according to court documents.

He was arrested by the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force at a Sacramento apartment building based on a warrant issued in May by an Iraqi federal court in Baghdad. U.S. officials plan to extradite him back to Iraq under a treaty with that nation, and he made his first appearance in federal court in Sacramento on Wednesday.

Prosecutors say Ameen entered the U.S. under a refugee program, eventually settling in Sacramento, and attempted to gain legal status in the United States. The Trump administration has sharply criticized the

Obama-era settlement program, questioning whether enough was done to weed out those with terrorist ties.

Officials said Ameen kept secret his membership in two terrorist groups when he applied for refugee status, and later when he applied for a green card in the United States.

Benjamin Galloway, one of Ameen's public defenders, said he had just 10 minutes to meet with his client prior to his initial federal court appearance Wednesday afternoon and attorneys hadn't decided whether to contest that Ameen is in fact the man wanted by Iraqi authorities.

Ameen remained dressed in street clothing including a light blue T-shirt as he appeared in court handcuffed to a chain around his waist. U.S. Magistrate Judge Edmund Brennan ordered him detained until his next court appearance set for Monday, accepting prosecutors' argument that Ameen is dangerous and a flight risk.

The Iraqi arrest warrant



A woman carrying a child is escorted by authorities to an apartment following the arrest of a 45-year-old Iraqi refugee, Omar Ameen, Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2018, in Sacramento, Calif.

Associated Press

and extradition request say that Ameen entered his hometown of Rawah in the Anbar province of Iraq with a four-vehicle ISIS caravan and drove to the home of a man who had served with the Rawah Police

Department. They opened fire and the man shot back, but the documents allege that Ameen fatally shot the man in the chest as he lay on the ground.

Court documents say Ameen's family also aided

al Qaeda in Rawah and that Ameen was a member of both al Qaeda in Iraq and ISIS. The documents allege that he did a number of things in support of the groups, including helping plant improvised bombs. □

Georgia woman facing 'longest sentence' for leaking to media

By **RUSS BYNUM**

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP) —

A Georgia woman who mailed a secret U.S. report to a news organization faces the "longest sentence" ever behind bars for a federal crime involving leaks to the news media, prosecutors said in a court filing.

Former National Security Agency contractor Reality

Winner, 26, is scheduled to be sentenced Aug. 23 by U.S. District Court Judge J. Randal Hall in Augusta. She pleaded guilty in June to a single count of transmitting national security information when she worked in Augusta as a translator at an NSA facility. Winner's plea deal with prosecutors calls for

imprisonment of five years and three months. But the sentencing judge isn't bound by that agreement. Winner's crime carries a maximum penalty of 10 years.

The Trump administration has made prosecuting government employees who leak sensitive information to the media a

high priority, and Attorney General Jeff Sessions pledged to clamp down on leaks last year.

In a court filing Tuesday, federal prosecutors in Winner's case said the 63-month sentence they're recommending is plenty stiff to deter other government workers from leaking sensitive information, even

if it could be tougher.

"The government advises the Court that despite the agreed-upon sentence being below the applicable guidelines range, it would be the longest sentence served by a federal defendant for an unauthorized disclosure to the media," the prosecutors wrote. □

3 kids heading on summer vacations among Italy bridge dead

ROME (AP) — Authorities in Italy, France and Albania have confirmed their citizens are among the 39 victims of Tuesday's highway bridge collapse in Genoa. They include three children, traveling with their respective families on summer holidays. Here are some of their stories:

Marta Danisi, one of the victims, born in Sant'Agata di Militello, a small town in Sicily, was 29 years old. Italian news agency ANSA reported that she was a nurse working in Alessandria, a town in northern Italy. The mayor of the town she was from in Sicily wrote on Facebook: "I'm shocked and saddened for the terrible tragedy that hit one of our fellow villagers, the young Marta Danisi, who died after the collapse of the Morandi bridge in Genoa. The same fate hit her boyfriend, who was in the car with her."

According to media re-

ports, Danisi was traveling with her boyfriend Alberto Fanfani, 32, born in Florence, also one of the casualties confirmed by the prefect's office.

Stella Maria Boccia, a 24-year-old born in Napoli, is another victim. Italian newspapers reported that Boccia's parents manage a restaurant called "Il Pescatore" in Tuscany. A Facebook post published by the restaurant's page Wednesday in the early morning read: "We apologize to our customers, but we'll be closed for mourning. Unfortunately, a piece of our heart has remained under the rubble of the bridge in Genoa." Italian media reported that Boccia was with her boyfriend, another victim whose name has not been confirmed by Italian officials yet.

The collapse also killed a family of three: Roberto Robbiano, who would have



Undated Facebook photo of Roberto Robbiano, 43, Ersilia Piccinino, 41, and their nine-year old son Samuel, who were among the victims of the Morandi highway bridge that collapsed in Genoa, northern Italy, Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2018.

Associated Press

turned 44 on Thursday, Ersilia Piccinino, 41, and their 9-year-old son Samuele. Italian newspaper La Stampa reported that the family was traveling on holiday to Sardinia. Hours before the disaster, Roberto had posted an aerial photo of Sardinia on his Facebook

profile.

A family from the Turin area, in northern Italy, also is on the list: Andrea Vittone, 49, his partner Claudia Possetti, 47, with her children Manuele and Camilla Belasio, aged 16 and 12 years old respectively. The ANSA

news agency reported that they were on their way to vacation.

La Repubblica newspaper reported that the couple had gotten married in July, quoting a neighbor saying: "They had been together for a while, but they had only gotten married this summer. What a tragedy."

Andrea Cerulli was a 47-year-old man from Genoa. Italian newspaper Il Messaggero reported that he was a dock worker in the city's port. Cerulli was a fierce fan of one of the local soccer teams, the Genoa CFC. A Facebook page of fellow dock workers who support the Genoa CFC posted a photo of the man, describing him as "our friend, our colleague." The post ended with the farewell: "Ciao Andre."

French officials confirmed Wednesday that four French people were among the dead. □

New Zealand bans most foreigners from buying homes

By NICK PERRY

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — New Zealand has banned most foreigners from buying homes as it tries to tackle runaway housing prices.

Previously the housing market was open to investors worldwide, but the government on Wednesday passed legislation that allows only New Zealand residents to buy homes.

In recent years, there have been many anecdotal stories of wealthy foreigners from Silicon Valley and beyond buying ranches in picturesque rural New Zealand as a "bolt hole" or escape option from a turbulent world.

There have also been stories of wealthy Chinese buyers outbidding New Zealanders on suburban homes in the main city of Auckland.

Statistics indicate about 3 percent of New Zealand homes are being sold to foreigners, but the amount rises to 5 percent in the



In this Aug. 13, 2018, photo a house is pictured for sale in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Associated Press

scenic Queenstown region and 22 percent in central Auckland.

Last month, the directors of the International Monetary Fund executive board said they encouraged New Zealand to reconsider the ban, which they thought would be unlikely to improve housing affordability. But the government says there is no doubt that foreigners are driving up prices, and the only question that remains is by how

much. The new law fulfils a campaign pledge by the liberal-led government which came to power last year.

There are some exceptions. Foreigners with New Zealand residency status will still be able to buy homes, as will people from Australia and Singapore, thanks to existing free-trade agreements.

Foreigners who already own homes in New Zealand won't be affected.

And overseas buyers will still be able to make limited investments in large apartment blocks and hotels.

"We're here today to take another step toward restoring the great New Zealand dream of home ownership," said Associate Finance Minister David Parker. He said it was the birthright of New Zealanders to buy homes at a fair price.

"This government believes that New Zealanders should not be outbid by wealthier foreign buyers," Parker said. "Whether it's a beautiful lakeside or oceanfront estate, or a modest suburban house, this law ensures that the market for our homes is set in New Zealand, not on the international market."

Opposition lawmaker Judith Collins said the bill was unnecessary.

"We oppose the bill because we don't believe that it actually fixes any problem," Collins said. "It is, in fact, nothing more than an attempt to justify some of the policies of the in-

coming government."

Skyrocketing home prices in Auckland have been of particular concern to New Zealanders, although that market has cooled over the past year. Still, prices there remain among the most expensive in the world when compared with people's incomes.

Figures released Wednesday by the Real Estate Institute of New Zealand indicate the median house price in Auckland is 835,000 New Zealand dollars (\$547,000) while the median price across the country is NZ\$550,000 (\$361,000).

In June, officials decided that former "Today" show host Matt Lauer could keep a lakeside ranch near Queenstown after authorities concluded there wasn't enough evidence he'd breached a "good character" condition. Lauer has been accused of sexual misconduct by at least three women and was fired from NBC last November. □

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African migrants reel as Israeli law cuts their salaries

By **CARON CREIGHTON**
Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — African migrants in Israel have been detained, threatened with deportation and faced hostility from lawmakers and residents. Since last year, they face another burden: a de facto 20 percent salary cut that has driven them further into poverty.

Israel's roughly 35,000 African migrants and the groups that support them say the recent law — in which Israel withholds the money from their paychecks every month and returns it only if they leave the country — is yet another attempt by an anti-migrant government to force them out.

"I feel that they started the 'deposit law' to make our life miserable," said Salamwit Willedo, a migrant from Eritrea who came to Israel in 2010. "We suffer for eight years here. If I had a country, why am I living here?" The Africans, mainly from war-torn Sudan and dictatorial Eritrea, began arriving in Israel in 2005 through its porous border with Egypt after Egyptian forces violently quashed a refugee demonstration and word spread of safety and job opportunities in Israel. Tens of thousands crossed the desert border, often after enduring dangerous journeys, before Israel completed a barrier in 2012 that stopped the influx.

Since then, Israel has wrestled with how to cope with those already in the country. Many took up menial jobs in hotels and restaurants, and thousands settled in southern Tel Aviv,



In this Wednesday, Aug. 8, 2018 photo, Eritrean migrant Russom Weldu Weldeyasie works at a restaurant in Tel Aviv, Israel.

Associated Press

where Israeli residents began complaining of rising crime.

While the migrants say they are refugees fleeing conflict or persecution, Israel views them as job-seekers who threaten the Jewish character of the state.

Israel has gone from detaining them in remote desert prisons to purportedly reaching a deal with a third country, believed to be Rwanda, to have them deported there.

In April, Israel reached an agreement with the United Nations to have many, but not all, of the migrants resettled in Western countries, with others allowed to stay in Israel. But the government quickly scrapped the deal after an outcry by hard-line politicians and residents of the hardscrabble areas where many of the migrants live.

The measures have kept the migrants living in limbo. The overwhelming majority have not been granted asylum and they lead a tenuous existence, often at the whims of the government. Some say they are victims of racism.

Israel rejects such accusations but doesn't hide its intentions behind the "deposit law," which according to the Interior Ministry, is meant to make Israel a less attractive option for migrants.

The law requires migrants' employers to hand over 20 percent of their salaries to the state, which says it keeps the money until the migrants leave, at which point they can reclaim the cash.

Unlike a tax, the withholding doesn't grant the migrants any additional social services, to which their access is

already limited. Employers are also tasked with storing an additional 16 percent of migrant's salaries toward a pension fund, making this social benefit inaccessible until asylum seekers choose to leave Israel.

Employers who hire migrants must also pay an additional tax, implemented to encourage employment of Israeli citizens over foreigners, which makes finding work an even greater challenge for the migrants. While Israel doesn't shy away from the law's goals, a spokeswoman suggested the money serves as a savings account for migrants choosing to leave Israel. Interior Ministry spokeswoman Sabine Haddad said the savings provide "a proper starting point for the beginning of the migrants' new lives outside of Israel." She said the state is current-

ly holding nearly \$40 million in the "deposit accounts" of more than 13,000 migrants. Of the thousands who have left Israel voluntarily, 400 have withdrawn their money, she said.

However, the law is being challenged in the country's Supreme Court, and many migrants view it as another attempt by the Israeli government to compel them to leave the country voluntarily. Under international law, Israel cannot legally deport asylum seekers.

"Always we are living under threat and uncertainty," said Ghebrehiwot Tekle, an Eritrean who has lived in Israel since 2006 and works as a translator for an aid group. "Every year there will be a new law that can make our life hard."

A year after the law's implementation, the 20 percent salary reduction has been deeply felt by Tel Aviv's community of asylum seekers.

According to accounts from various advocacy groups and asylum seekers, the impact ranges from people switching to black market jobs that pay them in cash to more women entering prostitution.

Families are also being forced to move into smaller apartments, choosing to place their children with uncertified, often unsafe baby-sitters, and giving up on paying for their children's health insurance.

ASSAF, an Israeli aid group for migrants, has tracked the law's effects since it was enacted. It said that requests to the group for food assistance by migrants have increased by a third over the past year. □

Suicide bomber targets Shiite students in Kabul, killing 48

By **RAHIM FAIEZ**

AMIR SHAH

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) —

A suicide bomber struck a private education center in a Shiite neighborhood of Kabul on Wednesday where high school graduates were preparing for university entrance exams, killing 48 young men and women and leaving behind a scene of devastation and tragedy.

The bombing, blamed on the Islamic State group, was the latest assault on Afghanistan's Shiite community, which has increasingly been targeted by Sunni extremists who consider Shiites to be heretics.

It also showed how militants are still able to stage large-scale attacks, even in the heart of Kabul, and underscored the struggles of the Afghan forces to provide security and stability on their own.

The attack comes amid a particularly bloody week in Afghanistan that has seen Taliban attacks kill scores of Afghan troops and civilians.

It was not immediately clear how the bomber managed to sneak into the building, used by the Shiite community as an education center, in the Dasht-i Barcha area of Kabul.

The spokesman for the public health ministry, Wahid Majroh, said 67 people were also wounded in the bombing and that the death toll — which steadily rose in the immediate aftermath of the bombing — could rise further. He did not say if all the victims were students and whether any of their teachers were also among the casualties. Dawlat Hossain, father of 18-year-old student Fareba who had left her class just a few minutes before the bombing but was still inside the compound, was on his way to meet his daughter and started running when he heard the explosion.

Hossain recounted to The Associated Press how when he entered Fareba's classroom, he saw parts of human bodies all over student desks and benches.



Afghan men stand near a damaged house following a Taliban attack in Ghazni, Afghanistan, Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2018.

Associated Press

"There was blood everywhere, all over the room, so scary and horrible," he said. After finding out that his daughter was safe, he helped move the wounded to hospitals.

Fareba was traumatized that so many of her friends were killed, but Hossain said she was lucky to be alive.

The explosion initially set off gunfire from Afghan guards in the area, leading to assumptions that there were more attackers involved, but officials later said all indications were that there was only one bomber.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack but Jawad Ghawari, a member of the city's Shiite clerical council, blamed IS, which has carried similar attacks on Shiites in the past, hitting mosques, schools and cultural centers. In the past two years, there were at least 13 attacks on the Shiite community in Kabul alone, he said.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani condemned the "terrorist" attack that "martyred and wounded the innocent" — students attending class — and ordered

an investigation into the attack.

"By targeting educational and cultural centers, terrorists have clearly shown they are against all those Islamic principles (that strive) for both men and women to learn and study," Ghani said in a statement.

The head of the U.N. children's agency denounced the attack, saying it's "deplorable" that children continue to be hardest hit in the growing violence across Afghanistan.

"Children are not, and must never be the target of violence," said UNICEF's executive director Henrietta Fore.

Meanwhile, a Taliban assault on two adjacent checkpoints in northern Afghanistan late on Tuesday night killed at least 30 soldiers and policemen.

The attack took place in Baghlan province's Baghlan-I Markazi district, said Mohammad Safdar Mohseni, the head of the provincial council.

Dilawar Aymaq, a parliamentarian from Baghlan, said the attack targeted a military checkpoint and another manned by the so-

called local police, militias recruited and paid by the Interior Ministry.

At least nine security forces were still missing and four others were wounded in the attack, said Abdul Hai Nemat, the governor of Baghlan. He said reinforcements have been dispatched to help recapture the checkpoints.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the assault. Life was gradually returning to normal Wednesday in parts of the eastern city of Ghazni after a massive, days-long Taliban attack, though sporadic gunbattles was still underway in some neighborhoods.

The Taliban launched a coordinated offensive last Friday, overwhelming the city's defenses and capturing several neighborhoods. Afghan forces repelled the initial assault and in recent days have struggled to flush the insurgents out of residential areas where they are holed up.

The United States and NATO launched airstrikes and sent military advisers to aid Afghan forces as they fight for the city, just 120

kilometers (75 miles) from the Afghan capital with a population of some 270,000 people.

At least 35 Ghazni civilians have been killed, said Arif Noori, a spokesman for the provincial governor. The wounded were still arriving at the city's only hospital, which has been overwhelmed by casualties, he added.

Hundreds of people have fled the fighting in Ghazni, which has also killed about 100 members of the Afghan security forces.

Elsewhere in Afghanistan, the Taliban attacked a police checkpoint in the southern Zabul province early Wednesday, killing four policemen, according to the provincial police chief, Mustafa Mayar.

The Taliban have seized several districts across the country in recent years and carry out near-daily attacks targeting Afghan security forces. The assault on Ghazni was widely seen as a show of force ahead of possible peace talks with the U.S., which has been at war in Afghanistan for nearly 17 years.

Also Wednesday, six children were killed when they tinkered with an unexploded rocket shell, causing it to blow up, said Sarhadi Zwak, spokesman for the governor of the eastern Laghman province. The victims were girls, aged 10-12, who were gathering firewood, he said, blaming the Taliban.

Afghanistan is littered with unexploded ordnance left by decades of war. It is also plagued by roadside bombs planted by insurgents, which are usually intended for government officials or security forces, but often kill and maim civilians. □





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Japanese emperor tries to make amends for his father's war

By MARI YAMAGUCHI

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — For his last time, Japan's Emperor Akihito addressed a memorial service Wednesday marking the end of World War II. Once again, he expressed "deep remorse" for the war. It was in keeping with what by all appearances has become a mission for Akihito over his 30-year reign: to make amends for a war fought in the name of his father, Hirohito. The 84-year-old monarch is set to abdicate next spring.

"Reflecting on our past and bearing in mind the feelings of deep remorse, I earnestly hope that the ravages of war will never be repeated," Akihito said in a two-minute speech on the 73rd anniversary of Japan's surrender.

As emperor, he has made unprecedented visits to the Philippines and other Pacific islands conquered by Japan early in World War II and devastated in fierce fighting as the U.S.-led allies took them back. Though Akihito has avoided a direct apology, he has subtly stepped up his expressions of regret in recent years in carefully scripted statements on the war.

His words have taken on greater importance as Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has sought to move Japan beyond its troubled past since coming to power in December 2012. Opponents of Abe's policies have grabbed onto the emperor's statements as a counterbalance to the prime minister's push to revise Japan's war-renouncing constitution and build up its military.

Akihito's World War II-related trips and pronouncements form part of a broader effort to bring the royal



Japanese Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, attend a memorial service for the war dead at Nippon Budokan martial arts hall Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2018, in Tokyo.

family closer to the public. In so doing, he has won over pacifists, leftists and other critics of the emperor system in a way his father was never able to do.

Hirohito, who was worshipped as a living god until the end of the war, remains a controversial figure even today, with historians still debating his responsibility for the war. During his father's reign, Akihito himself was almost hit by a Molotov cocktail on a 1975 visit to Japan's southern Okinawa island, where tens of thousands of civilians died in intense fighting near the end of World War II.

He has since visited the island 10 times. Okinawans warmly welcomed him and his wife Michiko earlier this year in what was likely his last as emperor.

Akihito was 11 years old when he heard his father's

voice announcing Japan's surrender on the radio on Aug. 15, 1945. During the subsequent U.S. occupation of Japan, he was tutored in English by Elizabeth Vining, a Quaker, an experience that experts say gave Akihito his pacifist and democratic outlook.

Though Hirohito hardly changed the wording of his Aug. 15 message for a quarter century, Akihito's has evolved since he became emperor after his father's death in 1989.

On the 50th anniversary of the war's end in 1995, he expressed for the first time the hope that the same tragedy would never be repeated.

The same year, then-Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama acknowledged Japan's wartime aggression and made a landmark apology to victims in the rest of Asia.

His successors expressed remorse to other Asian countries until Abe dropped them and any reference to aggression in his Aug. 15 remarks beginning in 2013. He has pledged that Japan will not repeat the devastation of war, and did again Wednesday.

Abe also sent a religious offering to a Tokyo shrine that honors the war dead, including convicted war criminals. He has avoided visiting the shrine since 2013 in a bid to avoid overly angering China and South Korea, which see the Yasukuni shrine as a symbol of Japan's military aggression. In his 70th anniversary address in 2015, Akihito started using the expression he used Wednesday, stronger words than he had used previously.

The contrast with Abe captured media atten-

tion, with the prime minister portrayed as a nationalist pushing for a stronger military versus a pacifist Akihito. Abe wants Japan to stop dwelling on the past, while the emperor doesn't want his country to forget it. Akihito visited China early in his reign and has traveled to some of the harshest World War II battlefields in the Pacific. His 2005 visit to the U.S. territory of Saipan was hailed as a statement of his desire to be part of the postwar healing process. Akihito traveled to the western Pacific nation of Palau in 2015 and the Philippines in 2016. While his Aug. 15 address is always short, Akihito has expressed his thoughts about the war more clearly in annual birthday remarks and on overseas trips. He has repeatedly stressed the importance of studying history and passing it down to the next generations.

"Now that the memories of the war have started to fade, I think it is extremely important for everyone to study time and again the course of history Japan has followed and to reflect on peace," he said in his 2011 birthday address.

His son, Crown Prince Naruhito, has largely echoed his father's pacifist stance, but it is unclear if the first postwar-generation emperor will be able to strike a similar chord with today's younger Japanese. □



In defiant act, Brazil party registers Lula for president

By **MAURICIO SAVARESE**
DIARLEI RODRIGUES

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) — The Workers' Party registered jailed former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva as its candidate for president Wednesday, its latest attempt to muscle him into the race to lead Latin America's largest nation in a showdown with Brazilian electoral authorities. More than 10,000 of da Silva's supporters flooded the area around the Supreme Electoral Court in Brazil's capital, while party leaders went inside to file the candidacy on the final day for registering. Soon after, Workers' Party Chairwoman Gleisi Hoffmann emerged, proudly showing reporters the proof of registration.

Former Sao Paulo Mayor Fernando Haddad was registered as the leftist party's vice presidential candidate.

"I will only not be a candidate if I die, give up or am ripped from the race by electoral authorities," da Silva said in a message read to the crowd by Haddad. "I don't expect to die. I will not give up. And I will fight for my rights in the electoral justice system until the end." Da Silva is serving a sen-



Supporter holds a photo of Brazil's jailed former president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, as he takes part in the Free Lula March, in Brasilia, Brazil, Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2018.

Associated Press

tence for a corruption conviction, but he continues to lead polls for October's presidential election. The electoral court is expected to bar him from running because of the conviction. Da Silva and his supporters insist he is innocent, contending the charges were trumped up to prevent him from returning to the presi-

dency. The police presence was heavy around the court, though the rally was peaceful. Many of the supporters wore red shirts or T-shirts with da Silva's face on them. Some wore masks of his face. The crowd shouted: "Free Lula!" or "Lula, warrior of the Brazilian people!" Da Silva is revered in many

parts of Brazil for his humble beginnings and for sharing the fruits of the country's boom years with the poor and working classes. But his conviction and the question over whether he can run for office has split Brazil, where some see his jailing as proof that no one is above the law and others feel he is being persecuted by a

justice system being manipulated to prevent him from taking power again. Brazilian law bars anyone like da Silva who has had a conviction upheld from holding office, though the court has the final say. "We don't even think about the possibility (of an election without da Silva) because an election without Lula would be a fraud," Elen Neves, a 22-year-old farmer from Parana state, said, using the name most Brazilians call the former president. "But if by any chance his candidacy is rejected, we will keep fighting for him to achieve the presidency." Haddad emphasized that da Silva's political rights have not yet been suspended and that he is still appealing his conviction. It is unclear how long the electoral court's decision will take, but the Workers' Party has until Sept. 17 to put someone else at the top of its ticket if da Silva is barred from running. It is thought that Haddad would take his spot. Da Silva was convicted last year of trading favors with a construction company in exchange for the promise of a beachfront apartment. □

New president takes over in Paraguay, vows to cut poverty

By **PEDRO SERVIN**
Associated Press

ASUNCION, Paraguay (AP) — Mario Abdo Benitez took over as Paraguay's new president on Wednesday, replacing a seemingly disgruntled Horacio Cartes, who left the inauguration ceremony before it finished.

Abdo Benitez, 46, promised to combat poverty and entrenched corruption, and urged Paraguayans to "look toward the future and not remain stuck in the past" as he took the oath of office to start a five-year term.

The marketing expert campaigned to continue Cartes' business-friendly policies and played down fears of a return to the heavy-handed past of dic-

tator Alfredo Stroessner, who ruled from 1954 to 1989. Abdo Benitez's father was Stroessner's private secretary.

While they belong to the same Colorado Party, Cartes has been unhappy that Abdo Benitez failed to back his effort to take an elected seat in the Senate. That would have given Cartes greater influence — and possibly immunity from any future efforts to prosecute the former soft-drink and tobacco magnate. Paraguay's constitution says former presidents automatically become senators for life, with a voice but without a vote, and some say that means it's impossible for them to take an elected seat with greater powers.



Paraguay's new President Mario Abdo Benitez, flanked by wife, acknowledges crowd after taking oath at "Lopez Palace" in Asuncion, Paraguay, Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2018.

Associated Press

Cartes and his allies felt "betrayed and humiliated" by Abdo Benitez and his allies, said Pedro Aliana of the Colorado Party.

"Cartes was generous with Abdo Benitez by putting into practice unity and col-

laborating generously during the campaign that led him to win the vote on April 22," Aliana told reporters. During the campaign trail, Abdo Benitez also vowed to improve the health system, develop alternative

sources of energy and boost the agricultural sector which is the backbone of the economy. But he will need to strike alliances with members of other political parties to achieve major political and economic changes because he lacks a majority in both houses of Congress.

Paraguay is one of the poorest and most corrupt countries in Latin America. The corruption watchdog group Transparency International ranks it 135 out of 180 nations. But under Cartes, the economy, fueled by agricultural exports, has remained one of the strongest in the region. The international Monetary fund expects Paraguay's economy to expand by 4.5 percent this year. □

LOCAL



Aruba International Regatta 2018



ORANJESTAD — Sailors of all ages and all classes come together for the annual Aruba international re-

gatta in August.

August 17, 18 and 19, the waters of Oranjestad har-

bor will be filled with competing sailboats during the tenth Aruba International Regatta. Sailing yachts as

well as sunfish, beach cats, optimists and F11's will be competing for podium places. The main goal of the Aruba Regatta is to bring together the sailors of Aruba and neighboring islands to promote sailing.

The regatta village will be set up at Surfside Beach Bar, next to the airport, to ensure entertainment and a spectacular view on the races. More than 40 sailing races will take place in the waters of Oranjestad Harbor on August 20 and 21 from 9 AM until 5 PM.

The Aruba International Regatta is not only an event for the participants in the races: the regatta village is a gathering point for people who want to enjoy a view of the races or have a relaxed afternoon on the beach in the regatta mood.

In 2017, after two years of Silver Status, Aruba International Regatta has obtained the Gold status of

Sailors for the Sea – Clean Regatta's. Join in the effort to reduce the Aruba International Regatta's footprint and stimulate sustainable development. Keep the beach, the sea and the air clean: Reduce, Re-use and Recycle! This year, the Caribbean director of Sailors for the Sea, Renata Goodridge, will join in the Aruba International Regatta celebration of 10 years sustainable regattas.

On Thursday, August 16, the regatta team in close collaboration with the Visit Aruba team and the University of Aruba will host a screening of the award winning documentary Chasing Coral, to raise awareness on ocean care and the human footprint. This screening will take place at the University of Aruba, Ibrausquinplein 4, Oranjestad. For more information regarding the event visit their facebook page Aruba International Regatta. □



Come and Listen to some real Sweet Pan Music



PALM BEACH — In honor of Mr. Edgar Connor, master steelpan builder and founder of the legendary "Aruba Invaders Steel Orchestra" there will be a special event coming Saturday at the Paseo Herencia Mall. You will get the opportunity to hear a free concert created by Sweet Pan Music Productions.

From 2007 Paseo Herencia Mall has been honoring Mr. Edgar Connor with naming the main stage of the mall after him. Last year family Connor was ordered to work on a relief for the main stage of the open air theatre, created by artist Maritza Erasmus. This was also the first time the event 'Honor to Connor Steelpan Celebration' was organized, which will be repeated this year on Saturday between 7 and 9 PM. Marver Guedez is one of the musicians that will give acte-de-presence during the event, accompanied by Eltienne Yarzagaray.

He is only 15 years old and already plays several music instruments, he started playing steel band at the age of 10. The North Stars Steel Band will also perform and at the same time their founder Freddie Tromp will receive recognition for the role of the band in the world of Steel bands. Master of ceremony will be Ruben Garcia, who always has been a supporter of the Connor family too. The Connor brothers will be recognized for their contribution of the event, the production as well as the presentation.

Steel Bands played a significant role in the society of Aruba, mostly during carnival season. Introduced by a Trinidadian immigrant at the time of De Lago Oil Refinery, this type of music grew in popularity. Unfortunately nowadays steel bands are rare and almost a lost art. Be sure not to miss this special event and hear some pure music from the region.

For more information please contact Paula Engelen at telephone 00 297 630- 6640 or email: myvoicemycreativity@gmail.com. □



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The Portella's, It's a family tradition

ORANJESTAD — Aruba is called the One Happy Island and that is certainly the case for the Portella family of New York City. Vincent and Cynthia made their first trip to Aruba in 1971, and subsequently after making annual visits of two and sometimes three times a year, their visits to Aruba total now well over 100!

The Portella's son Christopher is also a veteran of Aruba. Like his parents, Christopher received a Goodwill Ambassador Certificate in 1988 when he was 10. At that time, the award was presented to visitors for making 30 trips to Aruba, and Christopher was the youngest recipient. Christopher continued making trips to Aruba with his parents through High School and after graduating College and beginning his Advertising career in California, Aruba never left his mind. In 2007 he brought

his girlfriend Cristina Hong to Aruba for the second time and after taking her to see the sunset near the Bunker Bar at the Tamarijn, he got down on one knee and proposed. He handed her a seashell which when opened, revealed the engagement ring. Her answer off course was "yes!"

Vincent and Cynthia are now in Aruba with their son Chris, daughter-in-law Cristina and their grandchildren Elia (7) and Leo (5) for the first time. Everyone is enjoying their stay at the Dutch Village, enjoying the various pools, as well as many of the fine restaurants and attractions that Aruba has to offer. It is wonderful to see how much enjoyment three generations of Portella's are receiving in Aruba and we hope the younger members will continue their family tradition. □



Millennials are open for more technology in healthcare

Millennials are more interested in their health compared to past generations. A study done recently in Canada shows that they even might be interested in doing 'virtual meetings' with their physician instead.

An article in Global news shows that because this generation is so comfortable with technology they wouldn't have any problems making more use of it even for healthcare. Recently here in Aruba we noticed introduction of a new app in which you can send any complain regarding any medical issue

digitally. Aruba has over 20 thousand millennials which makes it a big part of the whole population.

More Precation

According to scientists that conducted this study, 47% of the millennials that were interviewed were happy that at least half of their consults were done through a digital way such as facetime or skype. Also remarkable is that millennials have more interest in having a healthy lifetime compared to past generations. When they feel sick they want to know immediately how to recover

from it. This is because they have easy access to medical sites online. Because of all these new technologies,

the medical industry is also changing, seeing that doctors nowadays have more pressure which never existed before, according to this article.

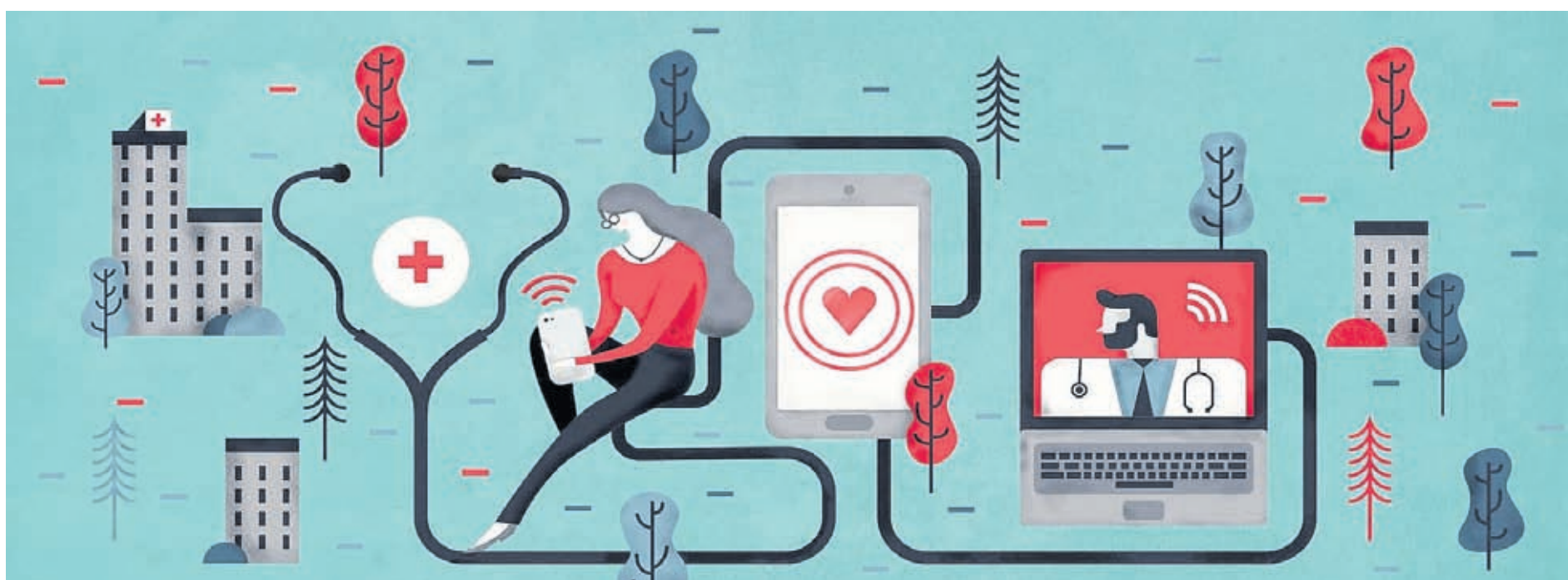
Comfort

The studies underlines that it's not necessary that past generations don't really care about their health, but it's more that millennials when entering a doctor's office are already more informed about their illness because they already done their own research about it. Seeing that they already enter the doctor's office with the perception of what's going on they are the ones empowered to be attended too. A correspondence of this study explains that millennials won't have any problems wearing watches or any other new technology in which they can monitor their health easily. If it was up to them they would prefer the option where they can choose a doctor that

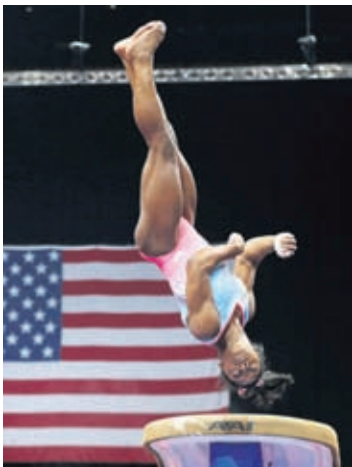
doesn't have any difficulties to incorporate more technology in their practice.

Human aspect

Two thirds of the correspondents underlined that they trust diagnostics from a doctor more than a digital machine. They also think that even though more technology is always welcome in order to work more efficiently. The technology world does not have to lose the human aspect. We don't have to discard the 'human touch' and the empathy that the patient is being treated with by a real doctor. Investments need to be done in medical health, but from the doctor's side. The ones involved in the study were happy to see that people still feel the necessity of the human aspect but also are open for technology. It is very essential to move forward with new technologies but we can't take over everything. □



SPORTS



Simone Biles practices on the vault during a training session at the U.S. Gymnastics Championships, Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2018, in Boston.

Associated Press

Progress slow for USA Gymnastics in wake of Nassar scandal

By WILL GRAVES
AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Simone Biles is not here to save gymnastics. Or at least USA Gymnastics.

The reigning Olympic champion understands how bumpy of a ride it has been for her sport's national governing body since she stepped off the podium in Rio de Janeiro two years ago, a fourth Olympic gold medal around her neck and the world at her feet.

Biles doesn't really care. The 21-year-old revealed in January she is among the hundreds of athletes who were abused by Larry Nassar under the guise of medical treatment.

The longtime former USA Gymnastics and Michigan State team doctor Larry Nassar is serving an effective life sentence after being convicted of federal child pornography and state sexual abuse charges.

Continued on Page 22

CALIFORNIA SCREAMIN'



Puig takes swing at Hundley, both ejected as benches clear

Los Angeles Dodgers' Yasiel Puig, left, and San Francisco Giants catcher Nick Hundley, center, argue while home plate umpire Eric Cooper gets between them during the seventh inning of a baseball game, Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2018, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press
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Best measure of Woods is when he has the lead

By **DOUG FERGUSON**

AP Golf Writer

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Tiger Woods once said it could not be considered a truly great year without winning a major.

Five years ago, he never would have said it could be a good year without winning any tournament.

This year is an exception.

Woods closed with a 64 on Sunday at Bellerive, his lowest final round in a major. He finished at 266, breaking by three shots his personal best over 72 holes in a major. Neither was enough to win the PGA Championship.

His last major was 10 years ago. His last victory of any variety was five years ago.

It's still been a good year.

Sixteen months ago, he announced his fourth back surgery in three years, the last one to fuse his lower spine. Ten months ago, doctors still had not given him clearance to swing a club. Eight months ago, he was No. 656 in the world ranking, one spot behind Lucas Nemecek of Austria. Now he's No. 26, one spot behind Sergio Garcia.

"I didn't even know if I was going to play golf again," Woods said. "It's been a hell of a process, for sure."

The majors are over. The season is not.

With his runner-up finish, Woods moved to No. 20 in the FedEx Cup. That assures him three FedEx Cup playoff events, and a reasonable chance to return to East Lake for the Tour Championship. For now, they are little more than opportunities.

Because while this year of the comeback has been nothing short of remarkable, two elements are missing.

He still hasn't won.

And he has yet to start the final round with at least a share of the lead.

Considering his reputation and record as golf's greatest closer, those two might go hand-in-hand.

The PGA Championship was another example that while Woods remains larger than life to the fans, it isn't enough to shake the play-



Tiger Woods celebrates after making a birdie putt on the 18th green during the final round of the PGA Championship golf tournament at Bellerive Country Club, Sunday, Aug. 12, 2018, in St. Louis.
Associated Press

ers he is trying to beat. That's not to suggest anyone ever gave Woods his 14 majors. It just seemed that way because he was winning so many of them. No one is going to give him any now.

The roars were never louder than when he hooked a 9-iron off the muddied, trampled grass on No. 9 and made birdie, except

maybe for his approach into the 15th that plopped down a foot from the cup, bringing him within one shot of the lead.

Brooks Koepka never got rattled.

"You could hear a different roar every 30 seconds," Koepka said. "So we knew what was going on. It's pretty obvious when Tiger makes a birdie."

Koepka, playing two groups behind Woods, missed three straight birdie putts from 10 feet or closer when Woods was making his last run. And then he poured in two in a row, the last one from 7 feet after the prettiest 4-iron he ever hit.

Francesco Molinari had it even tougher. He was playing alongside

Woods in the final round at Carnoustie when Woods took the lead for two holes, only to fall back with a double bogey on the 11th hole. Molinari forged through the noise without a bogey and won the British Open by two shots. The Italian became only the second player to win a major while paired with Woods in the final round. The other was Y.E. Yang in the 2009 PGA Championship at Hazeltine, the only times Woods lost a 54-hole lead in a major.

Close calls at Carnoustie and Bellerive should at least be a reminder that Woods has never won a major when trailing going into the final round. He won all 14 of them from either the lead or a share of the lead, and his closing rate on the PGA Tour is astounding.

Woods is 43-2 when has the lead going into Sunday, and his record is 11-2 when he is tied for the lead.

Now he just has to get there. He is good enough to win. That should no longer be up for debate.

Whether he still has that mystique is still to be determined. That starts with him being the hunted, and not the other way around.

Even in the best of times, Woods never charged his way to victory in a major. He started five shots behind at Hazeltine in the 2002 PGA Championship and birdied his last four holes, only for Rich Beem to make a 35-foot birdie on the 16th for some breathing room. Woods trailed at the Masters and U.S. Open in 2007 and quickly got into a tie for the lead, only to fade by not making enough putts.

Two shots behind Phil Mickelson going into Sunday at the 2006 Masters, Woods twice missed eagle putts inside 15 feet on the back nine to go along with six three-putts for the week. He finished two behind.

Give him the lead, give him the crowd, give him the opportunity, and Woods got it done with a rate never seen in golf.

That will be the next step, maybe the final step to see if that red shirt on Sunday still means something. □

Djokovic, U.S. Open champ Stephens win in Cincinnati

By JOE KAY

AP Sports Writer

MASON, Ohio (AP) — Novak Djokovic completed his comeback from elbow surgery by winning Wimbledon for the fourth time. He's inching closer to one of the few titles to elude him throughout his career. Djokovic overcame an upset stomach and a sluggish first set Wednesday, beating Adrian Mannarino 4-6, 6-2, 6-1 before heavy rain halted afternoon matches at the Western & Southern Open.

The 10th-seeded Djokovic demonstrated he's back in form by winning Wimbledon title last month. Now he's trying to get his hard-court game ready for the U.S. Open, the latest step in his long comeback. He's been very inconsistent while changing from grass

to hard courts.

"I know from experience it might come very quickly," he said. "So I'm hoping for that."

First, he'd love to win a Cincinnati title and complete a personal quest. Djokovic is trying to become the first to win all nine ATP Masters 1000 trophies.

Djokovic has reached the finals at Cincinnati five times and dropped all five matches — three to Roger Federer, two to Andy Murray.

"I think it adds more to the motivation rather than pressure," Djokovic said. "I really want to win this tournament. I definitely need to play better than I have in the first couple of matches."

There was one notable upset in the men's bracket before the rain arrived. Robin

Haase beat third-seeded Alexander Zverev 5-7, 6-4, 7-5 for his first victory against a Top 10 opponent since he beat Zverev last November. He's 7-26 overall against Top 10 players.

"Nowadays against Top 10, 20, maybe Top 50, you have to be a little bit lucky," Haase said.

In the women's bracket, defending U.S. Open champion Sloane Stephens overcame a thumb injury during a 6-3, 6-2 victory over qualifier Tatjana Maria.

A trainer applied a bandage to the third-seeded Stephens' right thumb between the third and fourth games of the second set. The match was Stephens' first since losing on Sunday to Simona Halep in the finals at Montreal.

Sloane reached the semi-finals last season in Cincinnati — her best finish — before heading to the U.S. Open and getting the title.



Sloane Stephens returns to Tatjana Maria, of Germany, in the second round at the Western & Southern Open tennis tournament, Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2018, in Mason, Ohio.

Associated Press

Defending tournament champion Garbine Muguruza had a third-set meltdown and lost to Lesia Tsurenko 2-6, 6-4, 6-4 after a critical double fault.

The seventh-seeded Spaniard was up 4-2 and serving in the third set when she double faulted to drop the game, a look of disbelief coming across her face after her final serve went

long. Given the reprieve, Tsurenko closed it out.

Both players were coming off injuries. Tsurenko retired in the second round at Montreal with a sore lower back. Muguruza suffered a second-round loss at Wimbledon and withdrew from San Jose and Montreal with a sore right arm.

Muguruza said her arm wasn't an issue as much as her lack of practice in the last couple of weeks because of the injury. □

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Acuna hits another leadoff homer, Braves beat Marlins 10-6

ATLANTA (AP) — Ronald Acuna Jr. became the youngest player in major league history to homer in five straight games, hitting a leadoff shot on the first pitch and later adding a three-run drive to help the surging Atlanta Braves beat the Miami Marlins 10-6 on Tuesday night.

The 20-year-old Acuna homered on Miami's first pitch for the second straight night and became the first player to hit a leadoff homer in three consecutive games since Baltimore's Brady Anderson went deep in four straight in 1996. On Monday, he became the fourth player in major league history to hit leadoff homers in both games of a doubleheader. Acuna connected in the first off Trevor Richards and homered to right-center, his 19th of the year, off Adam Conley (3-3) to give the Braves a 10-6 lead in the seventh.

Freddie Freeman hit his 20th homer to tie it in the sixth, and Dansby Swanson had a tiebreaking RBI single in the seventh as the NL East-leading Braves won for the 13th time in 17 games.

Acuna, who has homered in seven of his last eight games, and Charlie Culberson homered on Richards' first two pitches. Jesse Biddle (4-1) won in relief.

GIANTS 2, DODGERS 1

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Yasiel Puig took a swing at Giants catcher Nick Hundley during a benches-clearing scrap in the seventh inning, then Alen Hanson hit an RBI single in the ninth to lift San Francisco over the Los Angeles Dodgers.

The fracas starter when Puig swatted his bat in frustration after fouling off a pitch from Tony Watson, and Hundley said something to the mercurial slugger while still in his crouch. Puig turned around and walked toward Hundley, the catcher stood up, and they stood face to face and argued for a moment before Puig shoved Hundley twice.

That brought players out of the benches and bullpens. Puig and Hundley were mo-



Atlanta Braves' Ronald Acuna Jr. flips his bat after hitting a lead-off home run in the first inning of a baseball game against the Miami Marlins Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2018 in Atlanta.

Associated Press

mentarily separated, but Puig ducked around teammates, coaches and manager Dave Roberts before reaching back to hit Hundley. He smacked Hundley with an open hand across the front of his catcher's mask. Both players were ejected.

Hansen's single in the ninth came off Kenta Maeda (7-8), making his first relief appearance of the season, and gave the Dodgers their fifth consecutive loss, all against the bullpen. The Dodgers had a play at the plate, but catcher Yasmani Grandal dropped the throw home.

The Dodgers tied it with two outs in the eighth on Justin Turner's third double and Manny Machado's base hit off Sam Dyson (3-2). It was Machado's first RBI this month. Will Smith threw a scoreless ninth to earn his 10th save.

ANGELS 7, PADRES 3

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Justin Upton had three hits, in-

cluding a home run for the second straight night, and drove in three runs to lead the Los Angeles Angels over San Diego.

Eric Young Jr. tripled and had two RBIs, and rookie Taylor Ward had two hits, including an RBI double in his first major league at-bat. Freddy Galvis homered in the third straight game for the Padres.

Jaime Barria (8-7) won for the third time in four starts after losing six in a row. Brett Kennedy (0-2) gave up five runs over five innings in his second major league start.

CARDINALS 6, NATIONALS 4

ST. LOUIS (AP) — John Gant homered for his first major league hit and pitched one-run ball into the sixth inning, helping St. Louis to its season-high seventh consecutive victory.

Kolten Wong had three hits and three RBIs as St. Louis (65-55) pulled within four games of the NL Central-leading Cubs and moved

within one game of the Phillies for the second NL wild card. The Cardinals also improved to 18-9 since Mike Shildt became interim manager on July 13, the most wins for a manager through his first 27 games in franchise history.

The Nationals (60-60) have dropped six of eight to fall eight games behind Atlanta in the NL East.

Gant (5-4) permitted four hits in 5 1/3 innings. He was 0 for 30 for his career when he drove a 1-1 pitch from Gio Gonzalez (7-9) over the wall in left in the second.

Jordan Hicks got three outs for his fourth save in eight chances.

RED SOX 2, PHILLIES 1

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Pinch-hitter Brock Holt hit a tiebreaking solo homer, Rick Porcello threw seven impressive innings and the major league-leading Red Sox won again.

Sandy Leon also went deep for Boston, which improved to 86-35. The Red

Sox increased their total to 168 homers, matching their number from last year when they hit an AL-low 168.

Porcello (15-5) gave up one run and two hits, striking out 10. Craig Kimbrel worked the ninth for his 36th save. Rhys Hoskins homered, but the Phillies wasted a solid outing from Nick Pivetta. He allowed one run and three hits in six innings.

Holt hit the first pitch he saw from Tommy Hunter (3-2) in the eighth off the video screen on the facing of the second deck in right field.

INDIANS 8, REDS 1

CINCINNATI (AP) — Jose Ramirez hit his 36th home run and Cleveland ace Corey Kluber extended his dominance over Cincinnati.

The Indians have won the first two games of the series by a combined 18-4 despite a rough week with outfielder Leonys Martin hospitalized with a serious bacterial infection and right-hander Trevor Bauer on the DL with a fractured right leg.

Kluber (15-6) allowed one run and five hits and struck out seven in seven innings. In his past four starts against the Reds, he is 4-0 with a 1.80 ERA.

Sal Romano (7-10) left after allowing six runs and seven hits in 1 2/3 innings, the shortest start of his career.

BREWERS 7, CUBS 0

CHICAGO (AP) — Ryan Braun hit two of Milwaukee's four homers, Jhoulys Chacin struck out 10 in seven innings and the Brewers cut into the Cubs NL Central lead.

Lorenzo Cain homered on Jose Quintana's second pitch. Braun hit a two-run drive in the first and third. Erik Kratz added a solo homer in the sixth and an RBI double in the eighth.

Chacin (12-4) allowed three hits and walked two. The Brewers pulled within two games of the Cubs after dropping eight of 11 against them.

Quintana (10-9) got tagged for five runs and six hits in five innings after dominating the Brewers over seven previous starts. □

A's edge Mariners to pull within 1 game of 1st in AL West

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Jed Lowrie hit his 100th career homer long after his line drive knocked Mariners ace James Paxton out of the game, and the Oakland Athletics moved within one game of the slumping Houston Astros for the AL West lead.

Felix Hernandez (8-11) replaced Paxton in the first relief appearance of his career after 398 starts. The former Cy Young Award winner, who has struggled all year and was demoted to the bullpen last week, allowed two runs in 5 2/3 innings.

Paxton suffered a bruise on his left forearm after Lowrie's line drive popped him in the first inning, and X-rays taken later were negative. Mike Fiers (8-6) gave up two runs on six hits in his second start since being acquired in a trade from Detroit. Oakland won its fourth straight and improved to 17-6 since the All-Star break.

Robinson Cano returned to Seattle's lineup after serving an 80-game suspension for using a diuretic that can mask performance-enhancing drugs. The eight-time All-Star batted second and played first base, going 1 for 4.

Four Oakland relievers combined to pitch three scoreless innings. Blake Treinen worked the ninth for his 32nd save in 36 opportunities.

WHITE SOX 6, TIGERS 3
DETROIT (AP) — Ryan LaMarre hit his first major league home run, a drive that bounced off the top of the bullpen shelter in left field and into the hands of his uncle, as Chicago beat Detroit.

LaMarre was born 10 miles north of Comerica Park and played college baseball at Michigan.

Chicago won for the second time in eight games, improving to 2-9 against Detroit this season.

Lucas Giolito (8-9) allowed three runs in six innings. Xavier Cedeno got his first save since Aug. 11, 2015.

Blaine Hardy (4-5) gave up

four runs in four innings.

ROCKIES 5, ASTROS 1
HOUSTON (AP) — Nolan Arenado and Trevor Story each went deep, German Marquez pitched well in a matchup with Justin Verlander, and Colorado beat slumping Houston.

The Astros have matched a season high with five straight losses and extended their home skid to nine games.

Colorado trailed 1-0 and Verlander (11-8) had retired 13 of 14 when DJ LeMahieu singled with two outs in the sixth inning. Arenado then hit a 96-mph fastball into the third row in right field for his 30th homer.

Marquez (10-9) allowed just three hits and a run while fanning seven in seven innings.

Verlander was denied his 200th win again as he dropped his second straight despite striking out 11 in six innings, allowing six hits and two runs.

YANKEES 4, RAYS 1

NEW YORK (AP) — J.A. Happ allowed one soft single in seven shutout innings to win his third consecutive start since being traded from Toronto to the New York Yankees.

Happ (13-6) struck out four and walked four, throwing 71 of 106 pitches for strikes. The only Tampa Bay hit he permitted was a flyball by C.J. Cron that fell in front of left fielder Brett Gardner in the fourth.

Dellin Betances and Aroldis Chapman completed a crisp three-hitter that took just 2 hours, 32 minutes. Shaking off some recent struggles, Chapman worked a one-hit ninth for his 31st save in 33 chances. Hunter Wood (0-1) got the loss.

DIAMONDBACKS 6, RANGERS 4

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Paul Goldschmidt hit his 27th homer to put Arizona ahead to stay, and All-Star lefty Patrick Corbin worked seven innings for his 10th victory.

Corbin (10-4) struck out seven without a walk while

allowing three runs and throwing 66 of 96 pitches for strikes. He has made 10 consecutive starts without allowing a homer, the longest span for the Diamondbacks in 15 years and matching Boston's Chris Sale for the longest active streak in the majors.

Goldschmidt went deep to left in the first with a solo shot off Yovani Gallardo (7-2). Arizona led 4-0 in the fourth after Daniel Descalso had an RBI double and scored on a wild pitch. Descalso earlier had an RBI groundout.

Brad Boxberger worked the ninth for his 27th save in 32 chances.

TWINS 5, PIRATES 2

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Jorge Polanco got two hits, scored twice and drove in two runs and Miguel Sano hit a two-run homer, leading Minnesota over Pittsburgh.

Jake Odorizzi (5-7) won for the first time in six starts, striking out nine in 5 2/3 innings. Trevor Hildenberger, the Twins' fourth reliever, pitched a scoreless ninth for his second save since the trade of closer Fernando Rodney.

Jameson Taillon (9-9) finished six innings and allowed three earned runs, the 14th straight time he's taken the mound and surrendered no more than that.

BLUE JAYS 6, ROYALS 5
KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Kevin Pillar hit a two-run homer with two outs in the eighth inning to lift Toronto over Kansas.

Blaine Boyer (2-1) retired his first two batters before walking Aledmys Diaz and backing Pillar into an 0-2 count. Pillar hit the next



Seattle Mariners pitcher Felix Hernandez works against the Oakland Athletics in the first inning of a baseball game Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2018, in Oakland, Calif.

Associated Press

pitch over the wall down the left field line.

Ken Giles worked a perfect ninth for his 14th save and second with the Blue Jays since being acquired from Houston on July 30.

Salvador Perez and Jorge Bonifacio hit back-to-back doubles in the seventh off Jake Petricka (2-1) to give the Royals a short-lived 5-4 lead.

ORIOLES 6, METS 3

BALTIMORE (AP) — Chris Davis, Adam Jones and Tim Beckham each homered to back a strong performance by starter Andrew Cashner, and Baltimore snapped a five-game skid. Baltimore won both games against the Mets at Citi Field on June 5-6 and can complete the season sweep Wednesday.

Cashner (4-10) retired 10

consecutive batters before Jeff McNeil singled on a ground ball that caromed off first base in the fourth inning. Cashner allowed two runs and five hits with three strikeouts and three walks over seven innings.

Davis broke a 2-2 tie with a towering shot in the seventh off Bobby Wahl (0-1). Renato Nunez added an RBI single later that inning off Paul Sewald. □

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USA Gymnastics coach Mark Williams watches during a training session at the U.S. Gymnastics Championships, Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2018, in Boston.

Associated Press

Continued from Page 17

The fallout, which began in the fall of 2016 when the first victims came out publicly, continues to consume one of the U.S. Olympic movement's marquee programs nearly two years later.

It's put athletes like Biles in a tough spot. There's been so much chaos atop the organization they compete for — including a nearly complete overhaul among the leadership, numerous legal battles and murky details on how to implement the necessary changes in the wake of the Nassar scandal — that they're not sure how to respond.

Asked Wednesday if she thinks USA Gymnastics is headed down the right path, Biles offered an answer that spoke volumes about the iffy confidence in the new president Kerry Perry and a recently re-appointed board.

"That's a good question," Biles said as she prepared for the U.S. championships that begin Friday at the new Boston Garden. "I'm not so sure yet. Hopefully, it's going in the right direction but nobody can know until Kerry Perry speaks up. It's kind of hard."

Asked if she thinks it's time for Perry to take on a more public persona, Biles responded simply "yes, it's her job."

Maybe, but it's one that Perry has largely side-stepped since being hired last fall to replace Steve Penny, who resigned under pressure in

March 2017.

"My focus is going to be creating an environment of empowerment where all have a strong voice and we are dedicated every single day on athlete safety," Perry said on the day she was hired last November.

Yet in the eight-plus months since taking over, one of the voices that seems to be missing is Perry's. Though she has made a concerted effort to visit as many of the 3,546 member gyms across the country since taking over, she's only put a small dent in that number. When it comes to becoming the public face of the organization, she's stayed in the shadows.

Outside of a couple of appearances in front of lawmakers on Capitol Hill and brief remarks on a teleconferences with reporters, Perry has yet to articulate a way forward outside of generic and carefully crafted open letters. There is a growing sense of frustration not just among athletes at the elite level but also among the gym owners and operators that serve as the organization's lifeblood.

"The communication from the top down has been really reactive and disjointed," said Kim Ransom, who runs Pittsburgh Gymnastics Club in the eastern exurb of Brad-dock. "We get mass emails kind of bombed to us when there's a catastrophe in the news and it's sort of just feels very forced and contrived ... It feels like nobody is being real with us." □

American Shalane Flanagan to defend NYC Marathon title

NEW YORK (AP) — Shalane Flanagan and Geoffrey Kamworor will defend their titles at the New York City Marathon in November.

Flanagan became the first U.S. woman to win the NYC Marathon since Miki Gorman in 1977. Kamworor of Kenya earned his first major marathon victory.

The Swiss pair of Manuela Schar and Marcel Hug also will defend their titles in the wheelchair competition on Nov. 4.

Flanagan won in 2 hours, 26 minutes, 53 seconds last year, beating Mary Keitany of Kenya. Flanagan had the second-fastest time by a U.S. woman at the event in just her second NYC Marathon. She finished runner-



This Nov. 5, 2017, file photo shows Shalane Flanagan of the United States posing for pictures after crossing the finish line first in the women's division of the New York City Marathon in New York.

Associated Press

up in 2010.

The 37-year-old Flanagan says she's "thrilled to have the opportunity, support, passion, and health" to defend her title.

More than 50,000 runners from 125 countries are expected, and she hopes "everyone preparing enjoys their journey to the start line." □



In this Aug. 17, 2016 file photo, United States' Kerri Walsh Jennings reacts while playing Brazil during the women's beach volleyball bronze medal match of the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Associated Press

Walsh Jennings, FIVB team up on Las Vegas beach v'ball stop

By The Associated Press

Kerri Walsh Jennings is bringing beach volleyball to the desert.

The five-time Olympian's new p1440 circuit has announced an event in Las Vegas for October that will

serve as a stop on the FIVB pro tour. Players will be able to use points earned at the tournament to qualify for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo. The Las Vegas Open from Oct. 17-21 will have a prize purse of \$300,000

split equally among men and women. In addition to the beach volleyball tournament, the p1440 tour offers live music, cooking demonstrations, yoga and other sessions designed to promote healthy living. □

Eagles face Patriots again, this time in preseason

By The Associated Press

It's not exactly a Super Bowl rematch, especially in the preseason.

But the Philadelphia Eagles will face the New England Patriots on Thursday night for the first time since the Eagles won their first Super Bowl with a 41-33 victory in February in Minneapolis.

And just like at the Super Bowl, Carson Wentz will miss the game as he recovers from a torn ACL and LCL in his left knee. Wentz expects to participate in 11-on-11 drills next week, but it's uncertain whether he'll be ready for the season opener. The Eagles host the Atlanta Falcons on Sept. 6. Nick Foles is supposed to make his preseason debut at New England after sitting out last week's game. He had missed a few practices because of muscle spasms in his neck and shoulder area.

Tom Brady, the reigning league MVP, also will make his first start of the exhibition schedule after sitting out last week's game.

"We've got a big one against the Eagles and we know the challenge they present," Brady said Tuesday. "So, (we're) trying to put a lot into it and see if we can obviously get a lot out of it. You know, it's a big test. They're a good team and we're going to have to play well."

Elsewhere on Thursday night, it's the New York Jets at Washington and Pittsburgh at Green Bay.

What to look for around the league:

STEELERS YOUNG QBs GETTING A CHANCE

The Steelers are giving young quarterbacks Josh Dobbs and Mason Rudolph an extended look against the Packers.

Ben Roethlisberger and primary backup Landry Jones get the night off in Green Bay. Roethlisberger is in the concussion protocol. Right guard Marcus Gilbert said Tuesday that Roethlisberger rolled out and ran into him as he blocked linebacker Keion Adams.

Dobbs is likely auditioning for another job elsewhere



Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Nick Foles (9) and his teammates move to their next drill during NFL football training camp in Philadelphia, Monday, Aug. 13, 2018.

while figuring to be the odd man out in the four-man race for three spots.

Dobbs played well last week against Philadelphia, leading a two-minute drill that resulted in a touchdown at the end of the first half. He'll get an opportunity to face Green Bay's starting defense, which should provide a significant step up in class.

Rudolph, a third-round pick in the 2018 draft, looked solid at times while playing the entire second half against the Eagles. His goal will be holding onto the ball. He lost a fumble that was recovered by a teammate in his pro debut but also led the Steelers to three scoring drives.

The game is also a homecoming of sorts for Pittsburgh safety Morgan Burnett. The Steelers signed the veteran in the offseason after eight years in Green Bay to shore up a revamped secondary. Burnett's first camp in Pittsburgh has been uneven because of a hamstring injury that forced him to wait to put on the pads.

He's slotted as the starting strong safety and the Steelers are hopeful his sure tackling will help a unit that struggled making plays in the open field last season.

RODGERS RETURNS?

Aaron Rodgers is expected to get the start and see his first action in a preseason game. In fact, it will be the first time that the two-time NFL MVP will play in any game at home since Sept. 28 against the Chicago Bears. He broke his collarbone on Oct. 15 at Minnesota, and his only appearance after that was on Dec. 17 at Carolina. Whether or how much Rodgers goes against the Steelers may depend on the availability of dependable left tackle David Bakhtiari, who came back to practice this week following an ankle injury.

"I haven't played at home for a long time," Rodgers said. "So, it will be nice to get out on Lambeau."

GET TO THE QB

There are snaps available at outside linebacker with Nick Perry still waiting to get clearance to return from an ankle injury. Reserve Reg-

gie Gilbert is doing his best to try to alleviate concerns about depth at the position behind Perry and Clay Matthews. He's trying to build on his productive night in the preseason opener last week against Tennessee. Gilbert got extensive work with the starting defense in practice earlier this week.

TIME FOR SAM? Coach Todd Bowles isn't saying so, but rookie Sam Darnold could start at quarterback for the New York Jets against the Washington Redskins.

Darnold took most of the snaps with the first-team offense at joint workouts with the Redskins and drew rave reviews from Washington defender Josh Norman.

"Someone asked me about him the other day and I was like, yeah, it's like whatever — just a guy," Norman said. "Then you go out here and you see him make these throws and I'm like, all right, that's not so much of a college-level throw. He's putting them on the money." Bowles said all three of his QBs need to be ready, leaving the door open for

Josh McCown or Teddy Bridgewater to start. But the smart money is on Darnold, who impressed in his preseason debut against the Falcons.

WASHINGTON LOOKS TO GROUND GAME

Alex Smith is expected to start for the Redskins after sitting out exhibition opener at the New England Patriots.

But the focus will be on the running game, where Washington has to find a starter among Rob Kelley, Samaje Perine and others to replace the injured Derrius Guice. Kelley is the front-runner and should get the first carries. □

Associated Press



For many kids, summer means powering down for camp

By LEANNE ITALIE, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — If teens are so attached to their phones and all things connected, why do so many of them wind up in no-device summer camps with smiles on their faces?

Thirteen-year-old Daniela Blumenfeld of Scarsdale, New York, just finished her fifth summer at sleepaway camp with no devices beyond a simple iPod. "I didn't really miss my phone," she said, especially given camp distractions like banana boating — that is, riding a yellow, banana-shaped inflatable towed by a motorboat.

America's summer camps have gone device-free in a big way. Most sleep-away camps moved to ban personal electronics years ago, driven by the idea that campers should soak up the scenery, sports, crafts and camaraderie their parents are shelling out hundreds of dollars for, all in service to slower living and a rest for their still-developing brains.

But the big news may be that many kids seem not to mind at all.

About 90 percent of the nearly 8,400 sleepaway camps counted by the American Camp Association are now device free, though some allow limited time with screenless iPods and other internet-free music players.

A few teen-only programs provide cabin Wi-Fi and will let smartphones, laptops or tablets through the door so long as they're kept in cabins and bunk areas. Some camps provide scheduled computer and internet time — partly for coding, app development or website design classes built into their curricula, and partly for limited time on games such as the immensely popular Fortnite, an online multiplayer survival/shooting experience.

Among other things, camps don't want to be responsible for loss or damage to pricey technology brought from home, despite sneaky helicopter parents who



In this July 20, 2018, file photo, children gather at their respective cabins and get ready for the day's activities during a four-week summer camp session at Camp Sea Gull near Arapahoe, N.C.

mail phones in care packages and equally sneaky campers who stash them in their bunks.

Sometimes reverse psychology helps. Nigel Watson, camp director at the French Woods Sports and Arts Center, a high school-only sleepaway camp in the Catskills near New York, recalls spending his days at previous jobs confiscating smartphones and his evenings calling parents to report infractions.

"If you found one, they'd have another. Some brought three to camp. It was almost where I needed a full-time policeman to take care of it," he said. At French Woods, though, Watson lets kids use phones and other devices in their cabins, but nowhere else, so long as they power them down at lights-out.

His surprising finding: The phones often end up in a drawer after a few days at camp. "They're more often than not just comfort blankets," Watson said.

Daniela's 15-year-old sis-

ter, Liat, who once spent two weeks at the French Woods program, reported something similar during a recent three-week teen tour of Thailand.

"It was so fun," she said of the trip. "I wasn't craving phone time. I think since I did have it I wasn't as obsessed with using it." Liat considered it a relief to step away from the grind of social media and texting.

Daniela and Liat are now vacationing in Israel with their two sisters and parents.

Their phone use has picked up speed, said mom Ilanit Blumenfeld.

"I'm like, this is too much phone time while we're on vacation," she said. "They can only be on their phones or watching TV an hour and a half when it's daylight and at night they can go crazy."

For other kids, device-free camp also serves as a valuable, if brief, time-out from games, social media and other increasingly persistent digital distractions. Ca-

leb Santana, an 11-year-old from North Babylon on New York's Long Island, just spent a week at a sleep-away Christian camp in the Pennsylvania woods. That meant no Fortnite. Caleb, one of four kids, said it was a breeze, although a longer break might have been a problem.

But he's making up for lost time now that he's home.

"The Fortnite is a big deal, more than a phone," said his mother, Dorothy Gia Santana. "Since he got home he's been up to 3 in the morning some days playing."

Caleb, however, insists he has other plans for spending the remainder of his summer. "I want to get out and do stuff with my friends," he said. "I won't be playing Fortnite the whole time."

Daniela said that going phone-free at camp was easier since most of her friends were also away at tech-free programs and not all over text and social media.

Associated Press

"There's nothing really to see on my phone," she said.

But teens remain teens.

One of Daniela's camp friends had smuggled in an iPod touch — basically an iPhone without a cellular connection that can connect to Wi-Fi for social media, FaceTime video chat and more.

While the girls were on an off-campus trip they found Wi-Fi and Daniela surprised her parents with a quick call. The other girls did the same, she said.

"Yeah, they were pretty surprised to hear from me," she said with a laugh. "They were like, 'How are you calling us?'" □



Turnover: Preventing it and dealing with the aftermath

By **JOYCE M. ROSENBERG**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A tight labor market and a shrinking pool of talented workers make “I’m quitting” some of the most dreaded words a small business owner can hear. Staff turnover is a fact of life, but it’s particularly painful at small companies competing with larger businesses for workers. Owners learn they must make staff retention efforts a priority — including mentoring or changing workplace policies — and do some soul-searching if turnover increases. When five out of 22 staffers left Dash Design last year, owner David Ashen understood that some naturally wanted to move on to new challenges. But he also discovered after talking to employees that they felt the culture in his New York-based interior design company had changed since he brought in a new business partner. Ashen realized he needed to help employees feel more connected to the business, and focused on mentoring younger staffers. “We ask them, where do you want to be in six months or three years, and create a path to do that. When we failed to do that, people were less satisfied in their work,” he says. Ashen has also started let-



In this Wednesday, Aug. 8, 2018, photo Dash Design’s founder David Ashen poses for a picture in his office in New York.

ting workers have flexible schedules and bring their dogs to the office. Many companies find that a staff can be stable for some time, and then several employees leave at once. And with fewer employees, small businesses aren’t as able as big corporations to shuffle assignments when people leave. At The SEO Works, a digital marketing company in Sheffield, Britain, five staffers out of 30 left in a short period last year for a mix of professional and personal reasons, managing direc-

tor Ben Foster says. When staffers who are on teams leave, co-workers can pitch in while a replacement is hired, Foster says. But when employees who work by themselves quit, the managing director “just had to step up and take on two roles,” he says. The company has been changing its policies to try to improve retention, and recently also introduced flex time. Owners find that one big thing they can do is be clear with younger workers who want to know there’s

a chance for them to grow and develop new skills. Jeff Rizzo and business partner Matt Ross aim for each of their 10 staffers at product review website RIZKNOWS to understand what they need to do to win a promotion or a raise. “If employees do not see a clear career path or opportunity for advancement, chances are they’ll look elsewhere after a year or two,” Rizzo says. Many of the employees at the Reno, Nevada-based company have been hired straight out of college. Riz-

zo is philosophical about young people wanting to try something new eventually — but, he says, “we’re going to fight like heck to keep them.”

Companies that want to reduce turnover need to let employees know they’re valued and that what they do matters, says Leigh Branhams, owner of Keeping the People, a human resources consultancy.

“People want to feel their job is meaningful,” Branhams says. He suggests telling staffers, “I want you to know why you do what you do — and why it’s important to this company.”

Staffers also need regular feedback, and not have to wait for an anxiety-provoking annual review, says Nina Velasquez, a senior vice president at North 6th Agency, a public relations firm based in New York and with offices in Toronto and Boulder, Colorado. North 6th Agency gives its nearly 60 employees monthly feedback that is intended to be part of their training and development.

The company also has a rewards system allowing staffers to accumulate points in return for good performance. The points can be redeemed for perks including cash, commuting passes, groceries and time off. □

Associated Press

US factory output rose solid 0.3 percent in July

By **PAUL WISEMAN**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. manufacturing output rose a solid 0.3 percent last month, led by increased production of cars, electronics, and appliances. The Federal Reserve said Wednesday that overall industrial production — which includes output at mines and utilities as well as factories — increased 0.1 percent in July after climbing 1 percent in June. Production slid 0.3 percent at mines and 0.5 percent at utilities. Factory production has risen at a healthy pace this

year, though economists worry that it may not last. President Donald Trump’s imposition of tariffs on steel imports and on \$34 billion of products from China has sparked retaliatory duties, which may limit exports. And the dollar has increased in value against other currencies, which could further hurt exports by making U.S. products more expensive overseas. “The appreciation of the dollar so far this year means that growth in the factory sector appears set to slow further over the coming months,” Michael Pearce, senior U.S. economist at

Capital Economics, said in a research note. The July reading for industrial production fell short of economists’ expectations. But it is still up 4.2 percent from a year earlier. Despite the drop last month, mining has surged 12.9 percent since July 2017. American industry has looked relatively healthy despite trade conflicts with China, Europe and Canada, and a rising dollar that makes U.S. products more expensive abroad. Helped by tax cuts, the U.S. economy grew at a 4.1 percent pace from April through June, fastest since 2014.

Employers are hiring, and unemployment is 3.9 percent, close to a 50-year low. But manufacturers are coping with labor shortages and supply disruptions

connected to the ongoing trade disputes. Among other things, U.S. tariffs on imported steel and aluminum are raising costs for many manufacturers. □

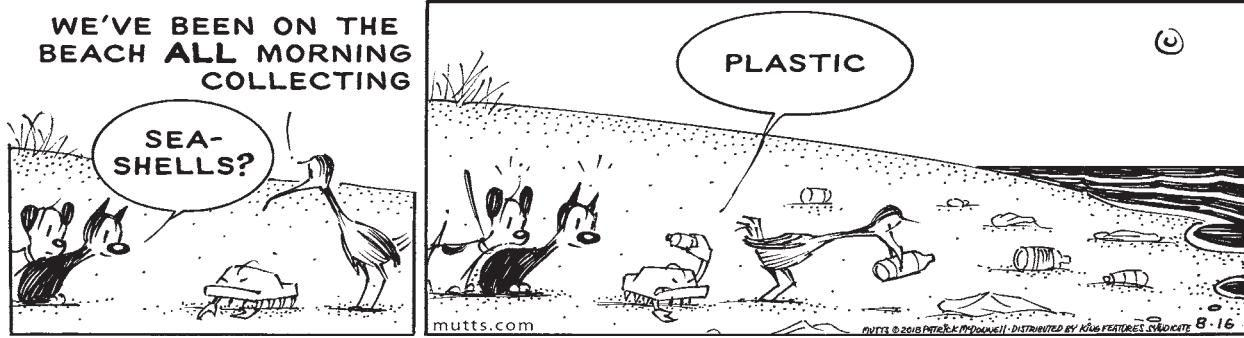


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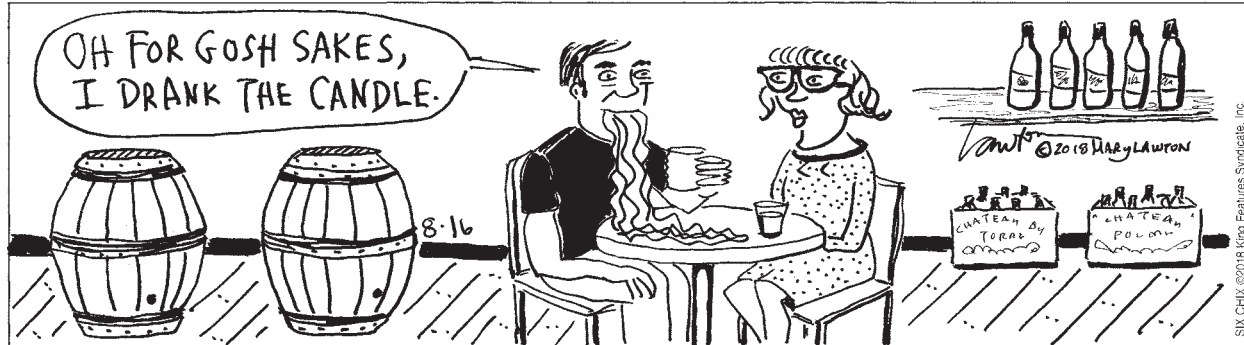
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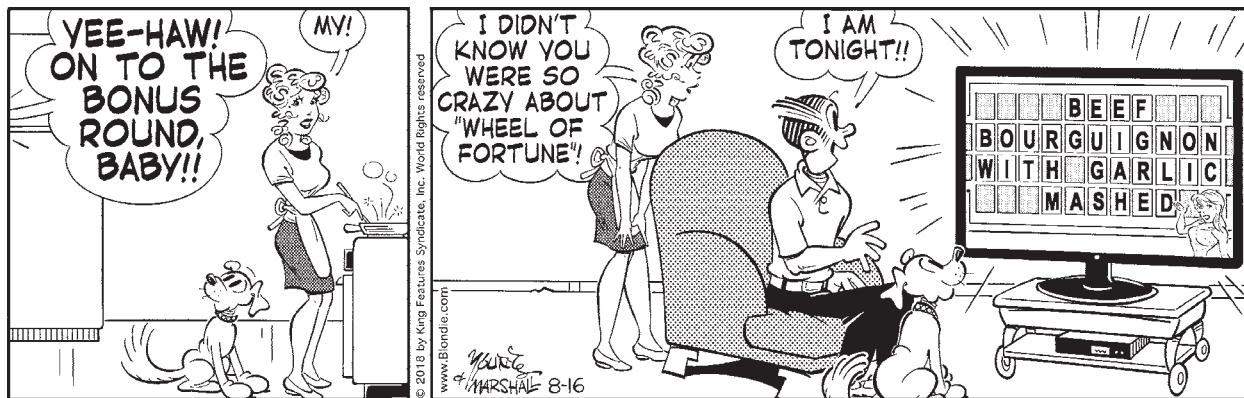
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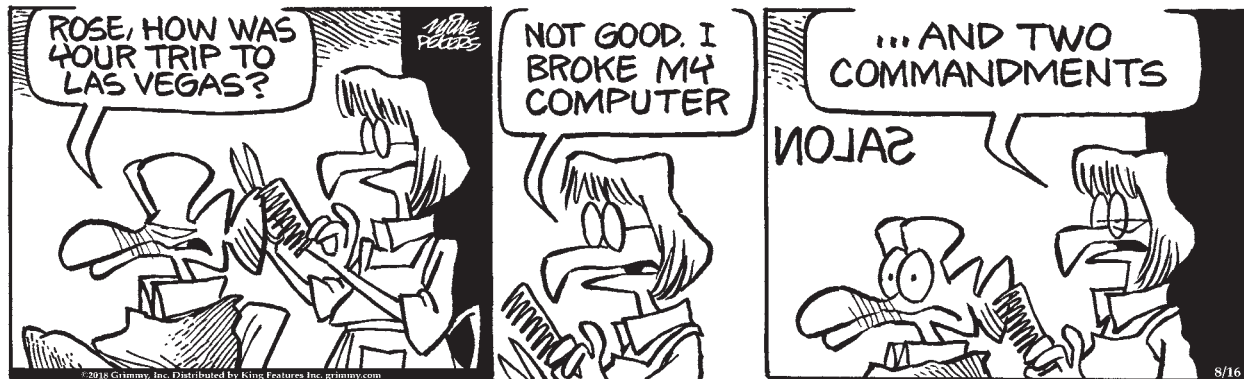
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

5					6		9
		6		2	3		
1			4			7	
	3			9		8	
	8					1	
		9		8		5	
	7			6			4
			1	7	5		
3	1						8

Difficulty Level ★★

8/16

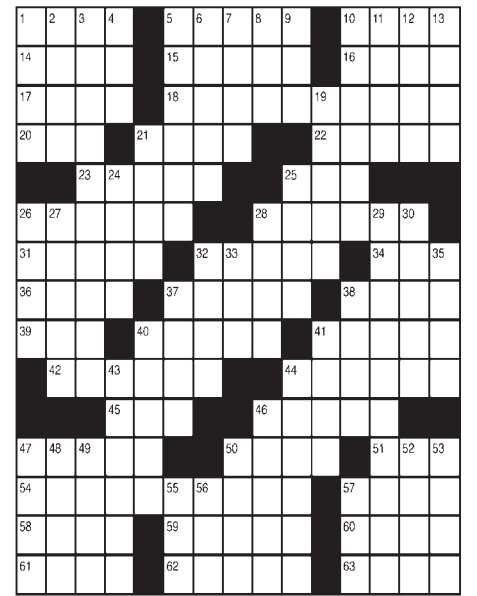
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

6	4	7	8	2	3	1	9	5
9	2	3	7	1	5	6	4	8
5	1	8	4	9	6	7	3	2
1	9	2	3	6	7	5	8	4
3	6	5	1	8	4	9	2	7
8	7	4	9	5	2	3	6	1
2	3	6	5	7	8	4	1	9
7	8	1	6	4	9	2	5	3
4	5	9	2	3	1	8	7	6

ACROSS

- Golf club with a large head
- Synagogue leader
- Goes bad
- Trick
- Sore as
- Hawaiian island
- Circle portions
- Old clunker
- Letter from Greece
- Platter
- Ship poles
- Unwilling
- Deep hole
- Swank or Duff
- Steve and Tim
- Give a speech
- Drew or Mariah
- This month: abbr.
- Word of disgust
- Punctuation mark
- Recipe verb
- Suffix for valid or decor
- Wild felines
- Actor Michael



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

8/16/18

- The one and the other
- Chomped down on
- Sick
- Turn
- Boatmen's needs
- "_ does it!"; cry of disgust
- Has dinner
- Post or Procter
- Show courage
- Dinner in the barn
- Tearful request
- Bat mitzvah dance
- Furious
- Upper limbs
- Across the country

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

CAAN	SHOE	PROW
ABBOT	TANS	LIVE
SLOTH	EMACIATED	
HEM	RIM	ALIENS
IRONS	PIN	
BANANA	FIASCO	
ELATE	BRAND	HUT
RIBS	SLANG	BANE
GAL	SHUNS	HENCE
SETTER	LODGES	
HAL	ROUSE	
ALBERT	ITS	ADO
LOOSE	ENDS	EBBED
SARI	ROOK	SALAD
ONES	SWAY	REDS

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8/16/18

DOWN

- Envelop
- "_ is not to reason why..."
- Moves back & forth, like a fan
- Moines
- Uncommon thing
- Embarrass
- More ashen-faced
- Signals to actors
- Rug
- Mr. Hemingway
- Storm winds
- Manhattan chowder
- Vagabond
- Night birds
- Jetty
- Press clothes
- Bookish fellow
- Turned _; uninterested
- Follower of Thurs.
- Uno, _ tres...

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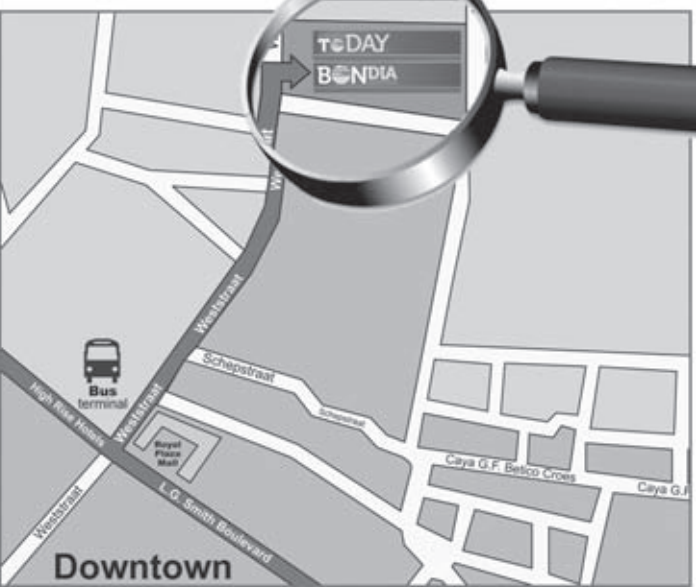
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Experts: Hail damage is worse, but climate role uncertain

By **DAN ELLIOTT**
Associated Press

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) — Hailstorms inflict billions of dollars in damage yearly in North America alone, and the cost will rise as the growing population builds more homes, offices and factories, climate and weather experts said Tuesday. The role of climate change in hailstorms is harder to assess, the experts said at a conference at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado.

Climate change will likely make large hailstorms worse, but population growth is more of a certainty, said Andreas Prein, a climate modeling scientist at the atmospheric research center.

"We know pretty certain that we will have more people in the future, and they will have more stuff, and this stuff can be damaged," Prein said.

"I think this component is more certain than what we can say about climate change at the moment."

This year is expected to be the 11th in a row in which the damage from severe storms exceeds \$10 billion in the United States, and 70 percent of that cost comes from hail, said Ian Giammanco, a research meteorologist for the Insurance



In this Aug. 6, 2018 file photo, Carlton Burton, an employee of the Broadmoor Hotel, shovels leaves and hail after a storm that damaged buildings, injured 14 people and killed at least five zoo animals in the Colorado Springs, Colo., area.

Associated Press

Institute for Business and Home Safety.

"It's such a huge driver of the dollar loss each year," he said.

Costs are rising in the U.S. because homes are getting bigger, from about 1,700 square feet (139 square meters) in the early 1980s to 2,500 square feet (232 square meters) in 2015, he said. New subdivisions also pack homes in more tightly, Giammanco said.

"So it's a bigger target for hailstorms to hit," he said.

The effects of climate change on hail and the resulting damage are harder to calculate because hailstorms require distinct ingre-

dients, and global warming affects them in different ways, Prein said.

To form, hailstorms require moisture, an updraft, variable winds and freezing temperatures at lower levels of the storm cloud, he said.

Updrafts lift water droplets into the clouds, where they attract other droplets and freeze together, scientists say.

Winds of varying speed and direction keep the droplets suspended in the cloud long enough to grow into hailstones.

When they eventually fall, freezing temperatures in the cloud keep them from

melting before they hit warmer air closer to the ground.

Climate change will likely increase updrafts, helping hailstones form, Prein said. But it will inhibit two hail-producing conditions, he said.

Warmer temperatures will expand higher into the atmosphere, so falling hailstones have more time to melt before hitting the ground. And differences in wind speed and direction will subside, he said.

Climate change will make the atmosphere more moist, but the effect that will have on hailstones isn't clear, he said.

Kristen Rasmussen, an assistant professor at Colorado State University, said the combined effects of climate change will probably inhibit the number of weaker storms but increase the number of severe ones. "So we actually think that's why we're seeing a decrease in the number of weak to moderate storms and an increase in the most severe storms," she said.

"If those storms are able to break through this inhibition, they ... have the potential to be more severe, and they can tap into more energy when they do so."

The researchers said they need more data to understand the relationship between climate change and hailstorms. Improved science could also help predict hailstorms and calculate risks better, they said.

The Rocky Mountains of Colorado, the Andes in South America and the Himalayas all have conditions that make them hot-spots for hail, Rasmussen said.

A May 2017 hailstorm in the Denver area caused \$2.3 billion in insurance losses. Last week, hail injured 14 people in Colorado Springs and killed at least five animals at the city zoo. Damage estimates were still being compiled. □



In this image made from video provided by NASA, cosmonaut Sergey Prokopyev flings a Sirius nano-satellite into orbit from the International Space Station on Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2018.

Associated Press

Spacewalkers flinging satellites, installing bird trackers

By **MARCIA DUNN**
AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Russian cosmonauts took a spacewalk Wednesday to fling tiny satellites into orbit and install an antenna for tracking birds on Earth.

Soon after leaving the International Space Station, Sergey Prokopyev released all four research satellites by hand.

"I'm ready for the launch," Prokopyev told Russian flight controllers near Moscow.

The first satellite tumbled away as the space station soared 250 miles above Illinois. By the time the fourth one was on its way 14 minutes later, the station was almost to Spain. Two were the size of a tissue box, while the other two were longer. The space station is an ideal perch for the antenna, compared with a satellite, said project director Martin Wikelski of the Max Planck Institute for Ornithology in Germany. That's because spacewalkers could fix something if necessary and the computer is better protected from space radiation, he noted. □

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From Reese Witherspoon to SJP, the rise of celeb book clubs

By ALICIA RANCILIO

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Jimmy Fallon remembers a summer a few years back when it seemed everybody was reading "Gone Girl" by Gillian Flynn.

"Everyone had that book. If we had people over, or went on vacation poolside, people had that book wrinkled and curled up. I read it with my wife and we read every chapter together and we'd be like, '(Gasps) This is great!' It was the world's smallest book club," he laughed.

This summer, Fallon decided to expand his book club of two to include his late-night audience. In June, he launched "Tonight Show Summer Reads." Fallon presented five book options on his show and instructed viewers to go online and vote for their favorite. The results exceeded his expectations with 140,000 votes. The winner was "Children of Blood and Bone" by Tomi Adeyemi.

"Any way to engage the audience and to do stuff with them is always more fun," said Fallon.

He also enthusiastically tracked how the books performed on Amazon after a mention on his show. The company confirms he had an impact.

"When a celebrity decides to get behind a book, we generally see a lift in sales," said Chris Schlupe, an editor at Amazon. "For instance, 'Children of Blood and Bone' has been selling well this year. But the week after Jimmy Fallon selected it as the first 'Tonight Show' book club selection, it sold nearly three times the number of print, Kindle and Audible books that it had sold in the previous week at Amazon."

Fallon isn't the only celebrity to follow in Oprah Winfrey's footsteps with a book club. Reese Witherspoon has made such a success of her monthly literary picks that publishers are now putting Reese stickers on her selections.

"It's fantastic and we have a great experience," said



This file photo shows actress Reese Witherspoon, with two cover images of novels she selected for her book club, *Something in the Water* by Catherine Steadman and *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine*, by Gail Honeyman.

Witherspoon, who has bought the rights to many of her picks to adapt for film or television. One of her selections, "Little Fires Everywhere" by Celeste Ng will be a limited series on Hulu starring Witherspoon and Kerry Washington.

The Oscar winner has also partnered with the audio producer-distributor Audible on audio recordings of her selections.

Emma Roberts has turned her lifelong love of reading into a pet project she calls Belletrist. A website and social media for Belletrist celebrate all things books. Each month they feature a new book to read and even an independent book store to check out.

"Belletrist is my baby," said Roberts, who runs the site with her partner, Karah Preiss. She says there is "no criteria" for books she features because her personal taste is so varied, but she does tend to learn toward highlighting female authors. Sarah Jessica Parker is so committed to reading that she's partnered with the American Library Association to share her own suggestions. The goal, she says, is to not only get people to read but to also support their own local libraries. When Parker was approached by publishing house Hogarth to start her own imprint, her respect for writing initially made her think it wasn't a good idea. "I didn't think I had the experience and had too

much respect for people who've been in publishing for a long time," she said.

But Parker then thought it could be a way to help champion works in the lit-

erary fiction space which isn't always as commercial. The first novel printed by SJP for Hogarth, "A Place for Us" by Fatima Farheen Mirza, is a New York Times best-seller.

Parker said she also enjoys posting about books on social media because it's a safe topic.

Books are the "one thing I can talk about on Instagram that's not controversial," she said. "Everybody wants to talk about their favorite books or their feelings about books and share title recommendations. I mean, it's a huge exchange of information and enthusiasm and it's really the easiest part of my relationship with social media certainly." □

Associated Press



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<p>Tuesday at 8:00pm</p>  <p>Aruba Has Talent</p>	<p>Saturday at 8:00pm</p>  <p>Violin Night</p>
<p>Wednesday at 8:00pm</p>  <p>Noche Latina</p>	<p>Sunday at 8:00pm</p>  <p>Aruba Has Talent</p>
<p>Thursday at 8:00pm</p>  <p>Circus Night</p>	<p>Every night at 7:30pm 8:30pm 9:30pm</p>  <p>Liquid Firework Show</p>



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Diversity-focused academy program boots Hollywood dreamers

By LINDSEY BAHR

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The diversity crisis in Hollywood may rage on, but the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences continues to try to open up access to the entertainment business for people from underrepresented communities and give some a foot in the door at the most critical moment — when college graduation is in sight and the job market is looming.

For seven weeks this summer, 107 college students from across the nation convened in Los Angeles for internships at places like HBO, Warner Bros., Dolby Laboratories, Universal Pictures, IMAX and AMC Networks, in addition to film screenings and weekly panels on various aspects of the film industry from people at the top of their fields.

Notable speakers this summer included cinematographer Janusz Kaminski ("Schindler's List"), production designer K.K. Barrett ("Her"), "Sorry to Bother



In this Feb. 21, 2015 file photo, an Oscar statue appears outside the Dolby Theatre for the 87th Academy Awards in Los Angeles.

You" director Boots Riley and actress Lily Collins, who dished on the casting process. Cinematography and production design students even got to work with Daryn Okada, an academy governor, to recreate a scene from "Mean Girls," which Okada shot.

The program, now in its second year, continues to evolve. In addition to giving spots to over 30 additional students, this year Academy Gold added a Production Track program for students interested in cinematography, production design, post-production and film editing. The statistics remain dire in

the entertainment business job market for anyone who isn't a white, straight, able-bodied male. A survey from the Center for the Study of Women in Television and Film found that of the top 100 grossing films of 2017, two percent had female cinematographers and 14 percent had female editors. And according to the

University of Southern California's Annenberg Inclusion Initiative, across 1,100 of the top grossing films over the past decade, 64, or 5.2 percent, had black directors and 38, or 3.1 percent, had an Asian or Asian-American director.

Academy Gold is an industry-wide effort to infuse the entertainment business with diverse talent at the early stages of a career. The film academy, which puts on the Oscars, has been criticized in the past for the lack of diversity in its membership ranks, and has been making strides to correct over the past two years.

In addition to inviting new members with an eye toward inclusion, the Academy Gold program is addressing the issue at an earlier stage.

Academy Gold wrapped its summer program this past weekend and sent its second class of alumni back to finish their college educations armed with a designated mentor for eight months, contacts, peers and even a few new career ideas. □

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AUGUST 16 - 22

NEW THIS WEEK!

MARK WAHLBERG | LAUREN COHAN
MILE 22
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [R]
CXC PREMIUM LARGE FORMAT AUDIOBOOK
MONTHU 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35
FRI 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35 | 11:45
SAT 3:05 | 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35 | 11:45
SUN & HOL 3:05 | 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35
MONTHU 4:10 | 6:20 | 8:30
FRI 4:10 | 6:20 | 8:30 | 10:40
SAT 2:00 | 4:10 | 6:20 | 8:30 | 10:40
SUN & HOL 2:00 | 4:10 | 6:20 | 8:30

KODI SMIT-MCPHEE | NATASSIA MALTHE
ALPHA
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG-13]
MONTHU 4:45 | 7:00 | 9:15
FRI 4:45 | 7:00 | 9:15 | 11:30
SAT 2:30 | 4:45 | 7:00 | 9:15 | 11:30
SUN & HOL 2:30 | 4:45 | 7:00 | 9:15

JASON STATHAM | RUBY ROSE
MEG
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG-13]
MONTHU 4:25 | 6:55 | 9:25
FRI 4:25 | 6:55 | 9:25 | 11:55
SAT 1:55 | 4:25 | 6:55 | 9:25 | 11:55
SUN & HOL 1:55 | 4:25 | 6:55 | 9:25

EWAN MCGREGOR | HAYLEY ATWELL
Christopher Robin [PG]
MONTHU 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00
FRI 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00 | 11:20
SAT 2:00 | 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00 | 11:20
SUN & HOL 2:00 | 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00

MILA KUNIS | KATE MCKINNON
SPY WHO DUMPED ME
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [R]
MONTHU & SUN 4:35 | 9:20
FRI & SAT 4:35 | 9:20 | 11:50

JOEY KING | JAVIER BOTET
SLENDER MAN
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG-13]
MONTHU & SUN 9:30
FRI & SAT 9:30 | 11:40

TOM CRUISE | HENRY CAVILL
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE FALLOUT [PG-13]
MON-FRI 6:00 | 9:05
SAT-SUN 2:55 | 6:00 | 9:05

ADAM SANDLER | SELENA GOMEZ
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 3
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG]
MON-FRI 5:10 | 7:20
SAT & SUN 3:00 | 5:10 | 7:20

DWAYNE JOHNSON | NEVE CAMPBELL
SKYSCRAPER
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG-13]
MON-FRI 7:05
SAT-SUN 2:20 | 7:05

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Jim Lauderdale is consistently grand on 'Time Flies'



This cover image released by Yep Roc Records shows "Time Flies," a release by Jim Lauderdale.

Associated Press

By PABLO GORONDI

Associated Press

Jim Lauderdale, "Time Flies" (Yep Roc) Jim Lauderdale is a steady geyser of Americana, releasing over two dozen solo albums and collaborations and writing for and with many mostly country musicians — from

George Strait to Rodney Crowell and from the Dixie Chicks to George Jones — at a steaming pace.

Being prolific, however, would not mean much if Lauderdale's songwriting and singing weren't as consistently great as "Time Flies" once again demonstrates. The first half of the album explores classic and contemporary country sounds: the melancholy title track, the environmentally conscious "The Road Is a River," the Willie Nelson-like "Slow As Molasses" and "When I Held the Cards," a tear-jerker of a hard-luck story. There's even more variety later, including the noir-ish "Wearing Out Your Cool," sax solo included, and two swinging tunes in "Wild on Me Fast" and

"While You're Hoping," with echoes of Leon Russell and Dr. John and mentions of everyone from Cleopatra to Monet. Maybe as a coda to his Beatle-inspired 2017 album, "London Southern," there's gentle psychedelia on "It Blows My Mind," on which Lauderdale sounds a bit like Stan Ridgeway on the verses. On the final tune, "If the World's Still Here Tomorrow," Lauderdale vows that, if we all live to see another sunrise, "I'll still be loving you," doomsday be damned.

Also seeing its long-delayed release simultaneously with "Time Flies" is Lauderdale's first full album, a 1979 collaboration with bluegrass great Roland White which they recorded in Earl Scruggs' basement. □

Diamond won't let Parkinson's slow him down, talks new DVD

By MESFIN FEKADU

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Neil Diamond may have retired from the road due to Parkinson's disease, but he said he's working hard to get back onstage.

"Well, I'm doing pretty well. I'm active. I take my meds. I do my workouts. I'm in pretty good shape. I'm feeling good. I want to stay productive. I still have my boys. I just can't do the traveling that I once did, but I have my wife there supporting me (and) friends," he said in an interview with The Associated Press.

"It does have its challenges, but I'm feeling good and I feel very positive about. I'm feeling better every day," he added. "Just dealing with it as best I can, and just keep the music coming."

The 77-year-old canceled planned concerts when he announced he was diagnosed with Parkinson's in January. Still, fans will be able to see the icon perform with "Hot August Night III," a live concert CD/DVD chronicling his return to the Greek Theatre in Los Angeles in August 2012. It's out on Friday.



In this Feb. 11, 2017 file photo, Neil Diamond performs at the Clive Davis and The Recording Academy Pre-Grammy Gala in Beverly Hills, Calif.

The two-hour-plus performance featuring 33 songs celebrated the 40th anniversary of his original "Hot August Night" live album, also recorded at the Greek in August 1972. He performed 10 shows at the venue that month.

"It brings back memories — very deep, loving and

warm memories," he said of his performance. "Playing there and doing music relating to the audience, it was special. It's a special experience for me."

He said he re-watched the 2012 footage recently as it was edited for the new release, and he calls it "one of the best live perfor-

mances that I've done and I'm proud of it."

"I love the chemistry with the audience and myself. That's part of the thrill of the whole thing. There's a little magic involved in it," he said. "I'm just going to keep on keeping on, and that's about it."

"The thing I love most about

live performing is that it's very much in the moment. It's just something that you really can't describe," he continued. "You just have to be there and let the moment happen. Let yourself connect with the audience. Let that relationship with the audience express itself. It's a powerful tool." Diamond is one of music's best-selling singers with a number of hit songs, from "Sweet Caroline" to "America" to "Love on the Rocks."

He's given one-song performances since his Parkinson's diagnosis, including at the Songwriters Hall of Fame in June and last month for firefighters battling a blaze near his Colorado home.

He said he's not sure he can perform more than one song at the moment, but added: "The only way I could find out is to actually do it."

"But I think I can and I will give it a try at some point," he added. "I'm glad to still be around. The fact that I'm still singing well is a bonus and I hope to continue doing it, but in a format that I can handle." □

Associated Press

'Not an easy time' for Chris Pratt after Gunn firing

By RYAN PEARSON

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Chris Pratt says "it's not an easy time" as he and the rest of the "Guardians of the Galaxy" cast look to the future of the hit superhero franchise after Disney fired writer-director James Gunn.

Pratt told The Associated Press in an interview Tuesday that he stands behind social media posts saying he hopes Gunn can be reinstated for the next movie.

"It's not an easy time. We all love James and he's a good friend of ours, but we also really love playing the Guardians of the Galaxy. It's a complicated situation for everybody. And you know, we just want to move forward and do

what's right and be the best people we can be," Pratt told the AP.

Gunn was fired last month as director of "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3" because of old tweets that recently emerged where he joked about subjects like pedophilia and rape. He has apologized for the tweets, which were posted from 2008 to 2011.

Pratt spoke to the AP at a bar in Los Angeles after meeting with seven disabled athletes who are being sponsored to run in the New York Marathon by Michelob Ultra. The 39-year-old actor, a spokesman for the beer brand, said it was "shocking" to hear news of Gunn's firing during Comic-Con in San Diego.

"I love going to Comic-

Con but I ended up not doing a lot of interviews around that time just because it was so shocking. All I know is we put a lot of time, thought and effort into the statement that we released about it. And I think we all kind of want that statement to be essentially what we have to say about it. And we were pretty clear and honest about how we feel," Pratt said. Pratt signed an open letter released 10 days after Gunn's firing, saying the cast fully supports the director and the character he showed both on the set of the first two movies and in the wake of his firing. Zoe Saldana, Bradley Cooper, Vin Diesel and five other main stars of the franchise also signed the letter. Gunn has been



In this June 16, 2018 file photo, Chris Pratt arrives at the MTV Movie and TV Awards at the Barker Hangar in Santa Monica, Calif.

Associated Press

writer and director of the "Guardians of the Galaxy" franchise from the start, taking an obscure Marvel Comics title about a group of misfits and turning it into a space opera

decked with comedy and retro music that made Pratt a major movie star. Through two installments the franchise has brought in more than \$1.5 billion in global box office. □

Cooperstown stirs emotions for dad of young baseball player

By **LARRY LAGE**
Associated Press
COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. (AP)

— Two places have triggered tears of joy in my life: The Vatican and Cooperstown.

I wasn't surprised when it happened in my mother's homeland while kneeling and praying in St. Peter's as the nephew of a Roman Catholic priest and the great nephew of a Dominican nun.

Even though I'm an emotional Italian-American, I did not expect to have my emotions tugged as they were last month in upstate New York.

With my wife, our son, daughter and her friend, we broke up a nine-hour drive from Ann Arbor, Michigan, to Cooperstown into a two-day trip. We stopped for chicken wings at Duff's in Buffalo, spent a night in the Finger Lakes region and visited Seneca Falls where the women's rights convention was held in 1848. We were going to Cooperstown, naturally, for baseball.

I found out over the course of a week there's much more to the one-stoplight village than its No. 1 attraction, the National Baseball Hall of Fame, which is truly a great shrine for the game. My son plays for a 12 years old-and-under travel baseball team, Michigan Blue Jays Treat, that wrapped up its season at Cooperstown Dreams Park. The



In this Sept. 25, 2014, file photo, an exhibition baseball game is played at Doubleday Field in downtown Cooperstown, N.Y., near the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

sprawling and spectacular 165-acre facility is surrounded by lush forests providing a picturesque backdrop on any one of 20-plus fields enclosed by green, eight-foot walls.

Cooperstown Dream Park host 13 weeklong tournaments each summer and draws the country's best travel baseball teams from as far away as Hawaii. It brings in more than 500,000 visitors to a village with fewer than 2,000 year-round residents.

The tournament has created a unique culture in which it is common for an infielder to extend a hand for a competitor to slap when rounding the bases after clearing the fences in a ballpark where a 200-

foot fly is a home run. When I saw that the first time, it touched me and that's tough to do at a sporting event for a sports writer who has been to thousands of games.

The tears flowed, though, on another day when walking to the National Baseball Hall of Fame on Main Street, which looks like a Norman Rockwell painting. It took some time for me to pull it together before joining our team's players, coaches, parents and siblings for a wonderfully informative 30-minute talk with Baseball Hall of Fame director of communications Craig Muder.

Even if you don't have a player to root for at Cooperstown Dreams Park,

check out a game if you can make it there before the end of the month or any other summer.

It'll give you a good excuse to check out a place unlike any other. Locals say they love the fall when the leaves are changing colors on countless trees and crowds are smaller, so that may be a great time to getaway to this gem.

GETTING THERE

If it's too far to drive, fly to Albany, Binghamton or Syracuse and rent a car for a 90-minute drive to Cooperstown.

WHERE TO STAY

We rented a spacious home with a spectacular view of forests with trees so clumped together they looked like broccoli florets,

a pool and an awesome deck. Bed-and-breakfast options include the Landmark Inn where guests can help themselves to peanuts and Cracker Jack, a nod to the song "Take Me Out to the Ballgame." Near the stop light, the Inn at Cooperstown serves ice tea, lemonade and cookies on the porch.

To accommodate the seasonal floods of people, there are also many hotels, including some nationally known ones, and motels along with homes from lakefront homes to simple cabins for rent.

WHERE TO EAT

Main Street is filled with dining options, including the can't-miss Nicoletta's Italian Cafe along with Sal's Pizzeria and Cooperstown Diner. Please do yourself a favor and make a 5-minute drive north of downtown, to eat and or drink at The Blue Mingo Grill. The restaurant is in a boatyard on 9-mile-long Otsego Lake and serves perhaps the best chowder west of New England.

MORE THAN BASEBALL

Two museums perched on waterfront property once owned by author James Fenimore Cooper who wrote "The Leatherstocking Tales" series, are also popular attractions. The Fenimore Art Museum has a highly regarded Native American collection and the Farmers' Museum puts visitors on an active farm. □



In this July 16, 2018 photo, baseball greats Babe Ruth, left, and Ted Williams are depicted at bat, in statues at the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y.

Associated Press



In this July 16, 2018 photo, baseball greats from the first class inducted into National Baseball Hall of Fame are honored in the Plaque Gallery at the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y.

Associated Press